

March 10, 2017

The Honorable Donald Trump  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

The undersigned associations, representing tens of thousands of manufacturers and their employees in the United States, respectfully urge you to support continued funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) as you develop your FY18 budget.

The MEP is a national network of public-private partnerships that provides small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) technology-based services they need to thrive in today's economy and to help create well-paying modern manufacturing jobs. These services enable manufacturers to compete globally, support greater supply chain integration, and provide access to information, training, and technologies that improve efficiency, productivity, and profitability.

The MEP is a solid investment which has helped increase the competitiveness of manufacturers since its creation in 1988. The thousands of manufacturers that interacted with the MEP in FY2016 reported \$9.3 billion in new and retained sales, more than 86,000 new and retained jobs, and \$1.4 billion in cost savings based on a survey of MEP center clients by an outside third party about the program's impact. MEP clients are also increasing their capacity for the production of goods. Additionally, manufacturers reported \$3.5 billion in new investments directly attributed to their work with the MEP.

Modern manufacturers are increasingly technology-driven and the MEP facilitates the industry's ability to develop and deploy innovative products and processes. As you develop your FY18 budget with a focus on revitalizing the nation's manufacturing industry, we urge you to support continued funding for the MEP.

Sincerely,

Adhesive and Sealant Council  
Alaska Chamber  
American Composites Manufacturers Association  
American Gear Manufacturers Association  
American Small Manufacturers Coalition  
AMT-The Association For Manufacturing Technology  
Associated Industries of Massachusetts  
Associated Industries of Missouri  
Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii  
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute  
Consumer Specialty Products Association  
Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International

Fibre Box Association  
Georgia Association of Manufacturers  
Greater North Dakota Chamber  
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association  
Industrial Truck Association  
Iowa Association of Business and Industry  
IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries  
ISSA - The Worldwide Association for the Cleaning Industry  
Maryland Chamber of Commerce  
Measurement, Control & Automation Association  
Michigan Manufacturers Association  
Montana Manufacturing Association  
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)  
Nevada Manufacturers Association  
Non-Ferrous Founders' Society  
North Carolina Chamber  
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association  
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association  
Plastics Pipe Institute  
Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association  
Resilient Floor Covering Institute  
Rhode Island Manufacturers Association  
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce  
Spika Design & Manufacturing, Inc.  
Texas Association of Business