

**Testimony of Wolverine Coil Spring Co.  
Jay Dunwell, President  
To the U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and Commerce and Related Agencies**

On behalf of Wolverine Coil Spring, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As president of Wolverine Coil Spring, I am writing to respectfully request that the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided \$106 million within the fiscal year 2007 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

As you know, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community. The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,644 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2004 states that MEP clients report over \$721 million in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over \$4.532 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 43,624 jobs and increase investment of \$941 million back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, was drastically cut in the President's fiscal year 2007 budget proposal. This proposal represents a 56 percent decrease for the Congress appropriated level of \$106 million in fiscal year 2006.

Over the years, Wolverine Coil Spring has engaged in numerous activities with our local MEP center, The Right Place, Inc. For example, The Right Place organizes Tours of Best Practices creating a network of manufacturing companies sharing their ideas to improve the overall competitiveness of all the companies involved. The Right Place also coordinates User Groups, which allow for peer-to-peer learning for staff at all levels. Further, The Right Place organizes our local Manufacturers Council that has been active for over 15 years helping manufacturers succeed both locally and nationally. Without the MEP, Wolverine would be far less able to compete and grow in these challenging manufacturing times.

Wolverine Coil Spring believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Jay R. Dunwell  
President  
Wolverine Coil Spring Co.