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#### **40 Manufacturing and Business Associations Support MEP**

Washington, D.C. (June 8, 2006) – Forty business and manufacturing associations have sent a joint letter to House and Senate Appropriators requesting support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program. The letter asks that \$106 million in federal funding be appropriated to this critical manufacturing program in fiscal year 2007. In February, the President requested only \$46.3 million, a 60-percent decrease for the current funding level.

The letter states, “We – the undersigned associations representing tens of thousands of U.S. manufacturers and millions of employees – respectfully urge you to fund the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) at \$106 million in the FY 2007 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Bill. This is the level at which MEP was funded in FY 2006 and is necessary to ensure the sustainability of our domestic small manufacturing industry and its high-quality jobs.”

“The industry support exemplified in this letter is incredible and is a testament of the importance of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to the American manufacturing industrial base. On behalf of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers nationwide, we are humbled and honored to have such recognition and support,” states Mike Coast, chairman of the American Small Manufacturers Coalition.

The association letter demonstrates the program’s diverse support. Similar support was provided recently by 226 members of the House of Representative, 63 Senators, 17 Governors, individual association support letters, and support from hundreds of manufacturers nationwide. The signatories on the association letter include:

- The Adhesive and Sealant Council, Inc
- Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)
- American Iron and Steel Institute
- American Mold Builders Association (AMBA)
- American Small Manufacturers Coalition (ASMC)
- American Sportfishing Association
- American Welding Society (AWS)
- The Association for Manufacturing and Technology (AMT)
- Automotive Parts Remanufacturers Association (APRA)
- The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA)
- Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA)
- Environmental Industry Associations
- Fabricators & Manufacturers Association
- Hearth, Patio and Barbeque Association
- Hydraulic Institute

INDA – The Association for Nonwoven Fabrics Industry  
International Sanitary Supply Association  
GAME – An Association of Appliance & Equipment Manufacturers  
Glass Packing Institute  
Manufacturing Jewelers & Suppliers of America  
Metal Treating Institute  
Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)  
NACFAM  
National Association for Manufacturers (NAM)  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association  
National Center for Manufacturing Sciences (NCMS)  
NPES, The Association for Suppliers of Printing  
Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute  
Precision Metalforming Association (PMA)  
Pressure Sensitive Tape Council  
Rad-Tech – The Association for UV and EB Technology  
The Refractories Institute  
Society of Mechanical Engineers (SME)  
Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorators  
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)  
Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association  
Textile Care Allied Trades Association  
Tooling & Manufacturing Association  
United States Chamber of Commerce  
Waste Technology Equipment Association

The letter can be found in its entirety at the following address:

<http://www.smallmanufacturers.org/supporters.html>

The American Small Manufacturers Coalition (ASMC), the trade association of NIST MEP Centers, has advocated for Congressional support of the program through its members and manufacturing clients. 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. The public/private program, which served 16,448 in fiscal year 2005, 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 based on an independent survey of 4,644 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2004.