



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, and Science
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Senator Shelby, Chairman Mollohan, and Congressman Wolf:

Thank you for your support of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in the fiscal year 2010 Omnibus Appropriations bill. I am writing to express support for the President's request of \$129.7 million for MEP in the fiscal year 2011 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Manufacturing continues to be the backbone of Pennsylvania's economy, representing 14 percent of our gross state product, still our largest economic sector. But after enduring this historic recession, our manufacturing companies have been forced to shed an additional 59,000 jobs in 2009 in Pennsylvania. MEP is the only public-private program dedicated to providing technical support and services to small and medium-sized manufacturers. As the country continues to lose manufacturing jobs, U.S. manufacturing needs your help more than ever.

I strongly believe that this nation has a crucial need to continue its leadership in the global manufacturing economy. The MEP program is an essential part of the effort to restore this leadership. Working through centers in every state and Puerto Rico, MEP professionals extend objective consultation to thousands of small manufacturers across America to keep our industrial base competitive and retain high-wage manufacturing jobs with strong benefits.

The impact of the MEP program on manufacturing businesses is well documented. In fiscal year 2009 alone (based on services provided in 2008), companies around the country reported that as a result of MEP services, they created or retained over 52,948 jobs, generated or retained \$9.1 billion in sales, and realized \$1.41 billion in cost savings.

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The recent downturn in the economy has placed increased pressures on Pennsylvania's budget and therefore our ability to provide adequate cost share to the program. Without strong federal support, the MEP program, and our state program, will be unable to maintain its mission of serving small manufacturers' increasing needs. At a time when economic recovery is the national priority, I believe the MEP continues to be a wise investment.

On behalf of the companies and manufacturing workers in Pennsylvania, I respectfully request that you appropriate \$129.7 million for the MEP in fiscal year 2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward G. Rendell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "R".

Edward G. Rendell
Governor