



# State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

Bill Richardson  
*Governor*

March 19, 2010

Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice & Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Alan B. Mollohan, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice & Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Richard Shelby, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice & Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Frank R. Wolf, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice & Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Appropriators:

Thank you for your support of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in the fiscal year 2010 Omnibus Appropriations bill. As Governor of New Mexico, I write to express my 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 our economy, representing more than 12 percent of GDP. 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 needs 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 to keep our industrial base competitive and retain high-wage manufacturing jobs with strong benefits.

The impact of the MEP 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.

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

On behalf of these companies and manufacturing workers in New Mexico, I urge you to appropriate \$129.7 million for the MEP in fiscal year 2011.

Thank you for considering this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Richardson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bill Richardson  
Governor of New Mexico

BR/lb