

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALABAMA

March 5, 2010

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

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member, 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 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 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 America's 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.

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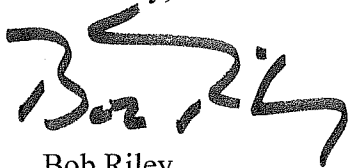
I strongly believe that this nation needs to continue its leadership in the global manufacturing economy. The MEP program is an essential part of the effort to restore this leadership. Working through centers in every state and Puerto Rico, MEP professionals extend objective consultation to thousands of small manufacturers across America 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 small manufacturer's increasing needs. At a time when economic recovery is the national priority, I believe the MEP continues to be a wise investment.

I respectfully request that you appropriate \$129.7 million for the MEP in fiscal year 2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Riley". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "R".

Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama

BR/ps