

Help Small Manufacturers in Your State!

Support the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) in FY11

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in supporting the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in the Fiscal Year 2011 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Funding the MEP at \$129.7 million – the level included in the President’s budget – will allow the MEP to continue to provide vital services to our nation’s manufacturers.

The MEP is the only public-private program dedicated to providing technical support and services to small and medium-sized manufacturers, helping them provide quality jobs for American workers. The MEP is a nationwide network of proven resources that enables manufacturers to compete globally, supports greater supply chain integration, and provides access to information, training, and technologies that improve efficiency, productivity, and profitability.

Manufacturing is one of our country’s greatest economic strengths. The U.S. is the world’s largest manufacturing economy, producing \$1.6 trillion of value last year. Small and mid-sized manufacturers are still a significant source of jobs, employing nine million workers in the U.S.

Demand for MEP services is greater than ever, and existing MEP centers are in need of these scarce funds to provide critical resources, serve new and existing clients, and create job growth. The MEP program’s well-documented impact is substantial. In Fiscal Year 2009 alone (based on services provided in 2008), MEP projects with small and medium-sized manufacturers created or retained 52,948 jobs, generated more than \$9.1 billion in sales, and provided cost savings of more than \$1.4 billion.

We hope that you will join us in supporting a funding level of \$129.7 million for the MEP in Fiscal Year 2011. If you would like to sign the letter, please have your staff contact Bret Hester with Senator Lieberman (Bret.Hester@lieberman.senate.gov) by close of business on Thursday, April 1st.

Sincerely,

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman

Senator Olympia J. Snowe

Senator Herb Kohl

April 1, 2010

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski, Chairman
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

Thank you for your support of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in the Fiscal Year 2010 Omnibus Appropriations bill. We are writing to express our support for the program, and respectfully request that you include \$129.7 million – the amount included in the President’s budget – for the MEP in the Fiscal Year 2011 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The MEP is the only public-private program dedicated to providing technical support and services to small and medium-sized manufacturers. The MEP is a nationwide network of proven resources that enables manufacturers to compete globally, supports greater supply chain integration, and provides access to information, training, and technologies that improve efficiency, productivity, and profitability.

A \$129.7 million appropriation for the MEP in Fiscal Year 2011 will allow the existing MEP Center network to continue to create jobs and respond to future challenges and opportunities in the manufacturing sector. Demand for MEP services is greater than ever, but state governments are facing budget shortfalls and cutting back the amount they provide to existing MEP centers, which are in need of these scarce funds to provide critical resources, serve new and existing clients, and create job growth.

The MEP program’s well-documented impact is substantial. In Fiscal Year 2009 alone (based on services provided in 2008), MEP projects with small and medium-sized manufacturers created or retained 52,948 jobs, generated more than \$9.1 billion in sales, and provided cost savings of more than \$1.4 billion.

At a time when economic recovery is our national priority, the MEP continues to be a wise investment. We urge you to provide \$129.7 million to and through the existing MEP center network for Fiscal Year 2011, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman

Olympia J. Snowe

Herb Kohl