Thank you for your past support of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. As [Title] of [Company Name] I am writing on behalf of my [number of employees] located in [City], [State] to request your continued support of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program as Congress develops the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Specifically, we are asking you to support increased funding for the program to $142.4 million. Since FY11, MEP has been level funded at $130 million and this requested increase reflects the bi-partisan focus on revitalizing American manufacturing.

The MEP program is our nation’s only network of public-private partnerships in every state that provides small- and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) technology-based services they need to thrive in today’s economy and create well-paying manufacturing jobs. The MEP center network forms 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.

Our local MEP affiliate, [Center Name], located in [City], provides [services]. [Since date/Last year alone] [Center Name] has served [number of manufacturers served] resulting in [statewide impact such as new and retained sales, created and retained jobs, cost savings, etc.]. Specifically, [Center Name] has helped our company [include short description of services]. As a result of these services, [Company name] has [including project impacts such as new and retained sales, created and retained jobs, cost savings, etc.].

Nationally, MEP delivers a 17 to 1 return on investment to taxpayers. Each year, an independent firm surveys manufacturers regarding the impact they have achieved from MEP Center services. In 2016, MEP clients reported $9.4 billion new and retained sales of which $2.3 billion is new sales providing a return on investment of 17:1 and the creation or retention of 86,602 jobs. Considering that the average U.S. manufacturing worker earns more than $81,289 in wages and benefits per year, MEP clients are economic drivers in their communities. MEP clients are also increasing their capacity for the production of goods. MEP clients reported $3.5 billion in new investments directly attributed to their work with MEP.

Manufacturers serviced by MEP make a substantial economic contribution. Since 1988, MEP clients reported 884,596 jobs created and retained, high paying jobs that have a large multiplier effect. Each of these jobs create 3.4 full-time additional jobs, totaling more than 3 million additional jobs in local communities. The total job impact by the MEP Program generates significant local, state and federal tax revenues.

An increase in funding will allow the program to increase the number of manufacturers receiving MEP services. Specifically, MEP will provide additional services to an increased number of companies within critical supply chains, such as automotive, aerospace, and priority defense sectors that support the growth and technological advancement of our military; develop and deploy new services in key areas such as cyber security, 3-D printing, smart factories, flexible materials, broadband technology, and supply-chain optimization; and re-double our efforts and increase client engagement in re-shoring, manufacturing repatriation, and creating domestic supply-chains.

The MEP continues to be a cost-effective, job-creating investment that boosts American manufacturing and competitiveness. We respectfully request that you provide $142.4 million in funding for the MEP center network in Fiscal Year 2018.

Sincerely,