

# Drive Manufacturing Growth in YOUR State: Support the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) in FY19

Sending Office: Honorable Mike Kelly  
Sent By: Sam.Breene@mail.house.gov

Request for  
Signature(s)

Dear Colleague:

Please join the letter below supporting a request of \$142.4 million for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in the Fiscal Year 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The MEP program is a federal public-private partnership 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. MEP is managed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and implemented through a network of industry-led centers located in every state. MEP centers are not-for-profit corporations that employ industry experts who work directly with manufacturers. Manufacturing is one of our country's greatest economic strengths, producing 11.7 percent of GDP. Over 99 percent of manufacturing firms in America are considered small, with less than 500 employees.

As a public-private partnership, MEP delivers a high return on investment to taxpayers. The Upjohn Institute for Employment Research conducted a study of MEP this past year and found that the program generates an 8.7:1 return on investment. Each year, an independent firm surveys manufacturers regarding the impact they have achieved from MEP Center services. In 2017, MEP clients reported \$12.66 billion new and retained sales and the creation or retention of 110,721 jobs. Considering that the average U.S. manufacturing worker earns more than \$82,023 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.

If you would like to sign the letter, please have your staff contact Sam Breene with the in Rep Mike Kelly's office at [sam.breene@mail.house.gov](mailto:sam.breene@mail.house.gov) or Russell Halliday in Rep James McGovern's office at [russell.haliday@mail.house.gov](mailto:russell.haliday@mail.house.gov) by COB March 12, 2018.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly

Member of Congress

James P. McGovern

Member of Congress

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March XX, 2018

The Honorable John Culberson, Chairman

The Honorable Jose Serrano, Ranking Member

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano:

Thank you for your past support of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we ask you for your continued support and, specifically, for the MEP at a level of \$142.4 million. By voting unanimously to pass the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (S. 3084) which was signed into law on January 6, 2017 (P.L. 114-329), Congress has provided a major boost to the nation's economy by encouraging growth in the manufacturing sector through advanced manufacturing initiatives. The American Innovation & Competitiveness Act reauthorizes the MEP program to allow it to continue to provide high-impact services to the nation's manufacturing community including those within your district.

Our country's small and medium-sized manufacturers have begun facing new challenges, such as cybersecurity and advanced technologies and new opportunities such as 3D printing, smart factories, exporting and reshoring. While the MEP centers have streamlined operations and increased their revenues from private industry, resource limitations continue to restrict MEP center ability to meet ever-growing demand for their services.

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 create well-paying manufacturing jobs and thrive in today's economy. The MEP centers form 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.

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Manufacturers serviced by MEP make a substantial economic contribution. Since 1988, MEP clients reported 985,317 jobs created and retained, high paying jobs that have a large multiplier effect. Each of these jobs creates 3.4 full-time additional jobs, totaling more than 3 million additional jobs in local communities. The total job impact of 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 more 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 efforts to assist US manufacturers with 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 2019.

Sincerely,