

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen:

We appreciate your past support of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. As you develop the FY2019 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide a slight increase in funding for this program to \$142.4 million.

The MEP program is our nation's only network of public-private partnerships that supports small- and medium-sized manufacturers in every state. Through the MEP program, manufacturers are connected with critical resources, allowing them to create and retain jobs and better compete globally. MEP provides support systems that help manufacturers improve supply chain integration, efficiency, productivity, and profitability.

According to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, for every \$1 of federal investment, the MEP program creates \$27.20 in new sales growth for manufacturers. The MEP program also creates or retains one manufacturing job for every \$1,291 it receives from the federal government. The program stimulates growth in the manufacturing sector, which already features a strong multiplier effect, while also providing a strong return on investment for American taxpayers.

As you know, the recently passed FY2018 omnibus appropriations legislation increased funding to this program to \$140 million. Providing full funding for this program at \$142.4 million would further bolster the MEP program's efforts to confront the most pressing challenges of today. U.S. manufacturers continue to develop new services in critical areas such as 3-D printing, cyber security, and supply-chain optimization. In addition, better investment would allow the MEP program to expand its efforts in helping manufacturers re-shore and develop domestic supply chains.

Investing in this program creates jobs and is a cost-effective use of taxpayer dollars. We respectfully request that you continue your support of U.S. manufacturers and provide a slight increase to \$142.4 million in funding for the MEP center network in FY2019.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Jack Reed

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

Robert Menendez

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Angus King

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Chris Coons

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Tom Carper

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Christopher Murphy

Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Jon Tester

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator