Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable José Serrano,
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
U.S House of Representative
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
U.S House of Representative
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we write to ask for your continued support and increased funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program to $154 million.

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, and provides access to information, training, and technologies that improve efficiency, productivity, and profitability.

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 a 14.5:1 return on investment. According to an annual survey conducted by an independent firm, in 2018 MEP clients reported $16 billion new and retained sales and the creation or retention of 122,029 jobs. Considering that the average U.S. manufacturing worker earns more than $84,832 in wage 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 $4 billion in new investments directly attributed to their work with MEP.

The MEP program's well documented impact is substantial. Since 1988, MEP clients reported 1,107,346 jobs created and retained. 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, Industry 4.0, flexible materials, broadband technology, and supply-chain optimization; and redouble 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 $154 million in funding for the MEP center network in Fiscal Year 2020.**

Sincerely,

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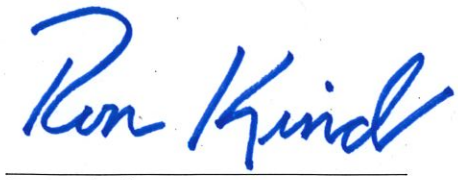

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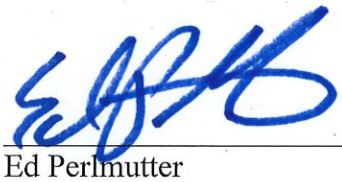

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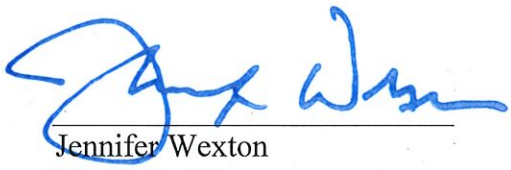

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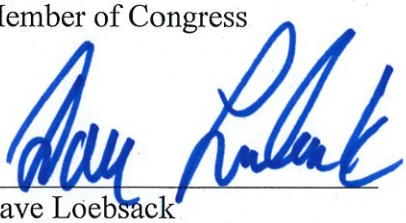

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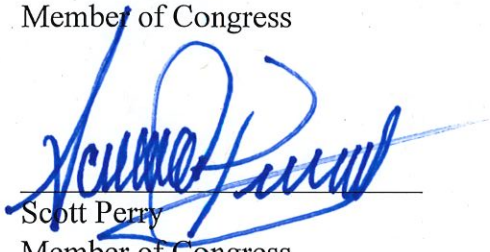

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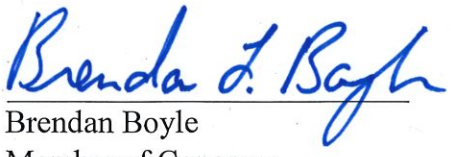

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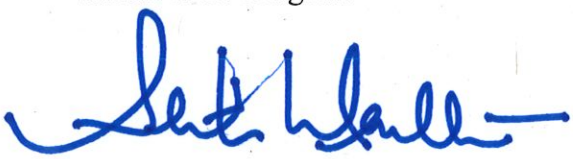

Seth Moulton
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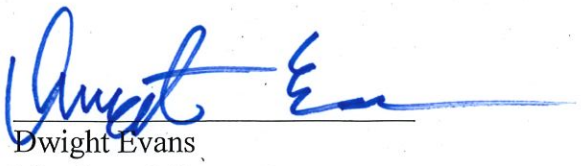

Dwight Evans
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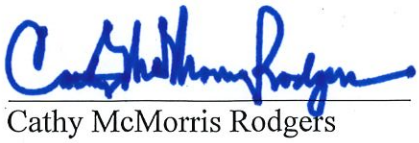

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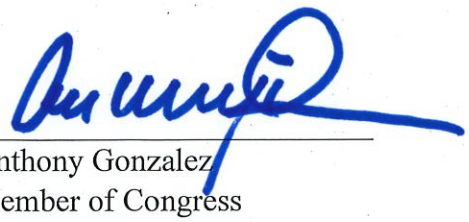

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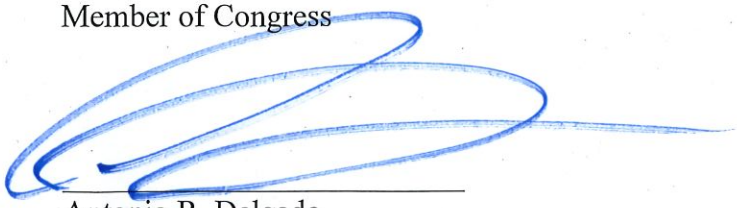

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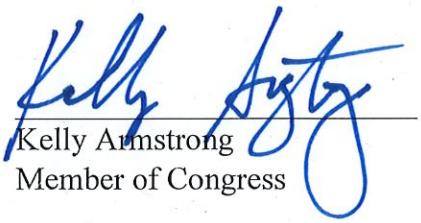

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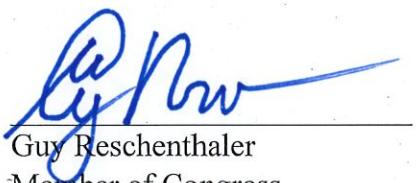
Member of Congress



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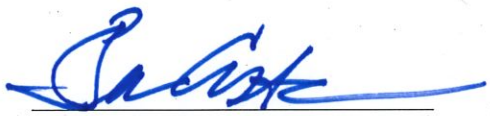

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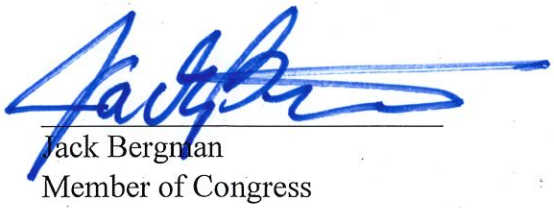

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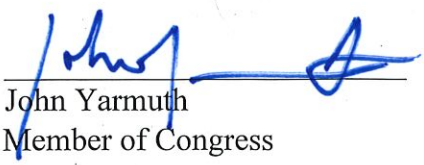

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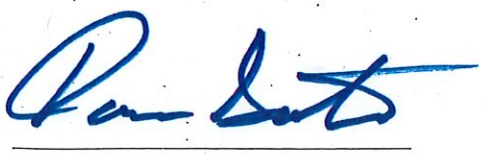

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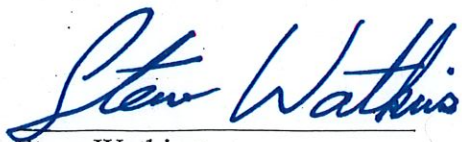

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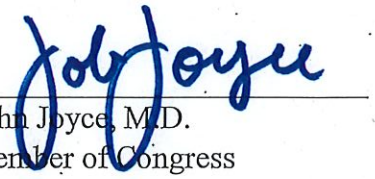

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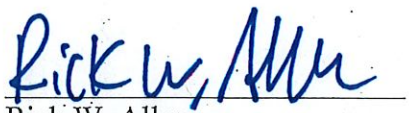

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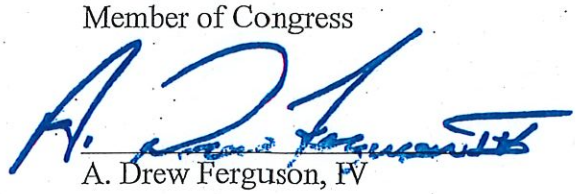

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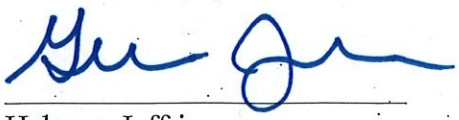

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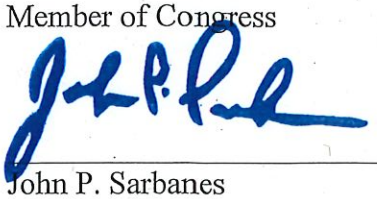

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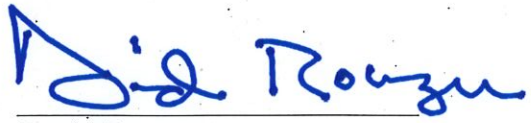

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