

April xx, 2019

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 FY2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you for increase funding for this program from \$140 million to \$154 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, in FY2018, for every \$1 of federal investment, the MEP program created \$29.50 in new sales growth for manufacturers. That same year, the MEP program also created or retained one manufacturing job for every \$1,065 in federal funding. In addition, a 2018 study by the Upjohn Institute for Employment Research found that for every dollar spent on the MEP program, the federal government receives a \$14.50 return on investment. 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. We should strengthen that investment.

MEP has proven to increase its market impact with each additional increase in federal funding throughout its 30 year history. The requested increase in FY20 will allow the program to build on its success. With \$154 million in funding, the MEP program could assist a greater number of manufacturers and help clients better confront the 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, increased 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 \$154 million in funding for MEP in FY2020.

Sincerely,