

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 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 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,



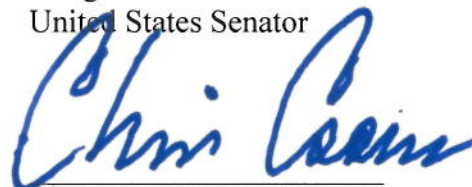
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



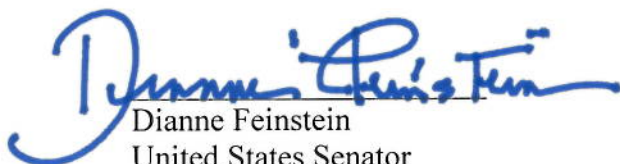
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



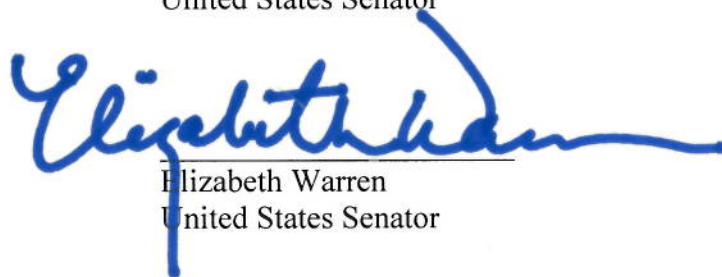
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



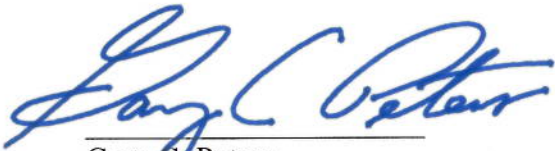
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



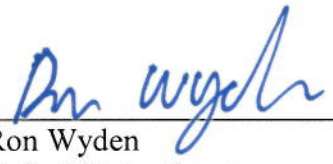
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



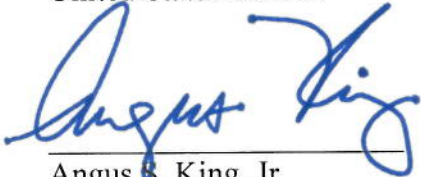
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



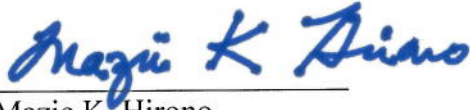
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



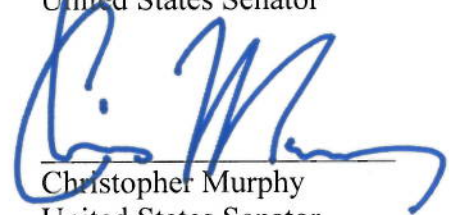
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



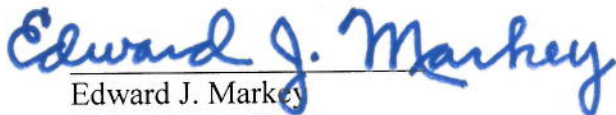
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



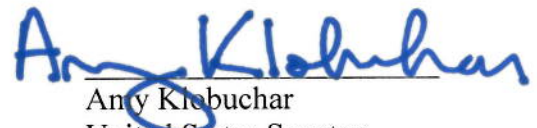
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy
United States Senator



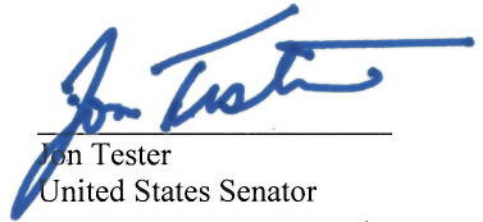
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



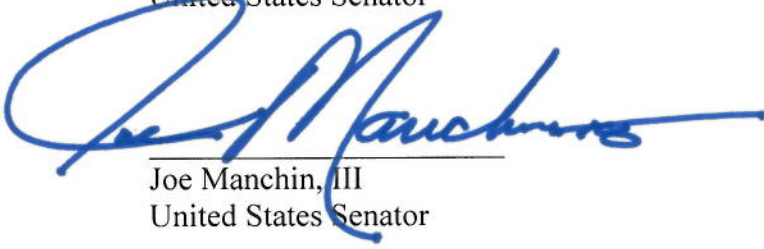
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



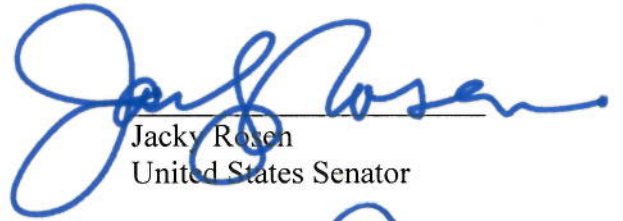
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



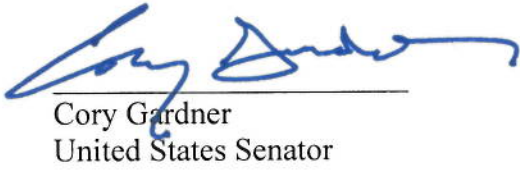
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



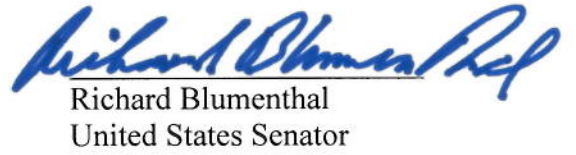
Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator