

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 31, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Hagel:

We write in strong support of the Department of Defense Office of Naval Research contract proposal (ONRBAA 13-019) submitted by the Advanced Lightweight Material Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ALMMII) to establish a Lightweight and Modern Metals Manufacturing Innovation (LM3I) Institute in Southeast Michigan.

ALMMII is a new and innovative Detroit Metropolitan-based collaboration that brings together U.S. industries, universities, a network of workforce development organizations, community colleges, and other non-profit organizations. It includes outstanding institutions such as the University of Michigan, Focus Hope, Henry Ford Community College, a diverse group of committed companies including ABS, Alcoa, Boeing, Eaton, GE, United Technologies, and several other small and medium-sized manufacturers. Together, these world-class organizations will create a corridor of expertise among four major Midwestern states and across the nation and help create over 10,000 jobs in ALMMII's first five years of operation. These states bring together experts from across multiple disciplines, and they will help provide cutting-edge and affordable solutions to lightweight and modern metals manufacturing that will ensure U.S. leadership in this field.

ALMMII will serve as the nation's essential bridge between research and product commercialization for lightweight metals. The first-rate facilities proposed by the team will promote American competitiveness, energy efficiency, defense readiness, and economic growth that will catalyze new and innovative manufacturing processes. In addition, the proposed Institute – located in the cradle of the U.S. manufacturing sector – will advance enabling technologies and processes, provide technical and incubation assistance to small and large businesses, and promote the development of a highly-skilled manufacturing workforce.

We are proud of Michigan's – and Detroit's – long history of innovation, as well as our state's track record of solving difficult problems for the nation, all while creating jobs and raising the country's standard of living. We are confident that ALMMII will meet and surpass the needs of the Department of Defense and simultaneously catalyze economic growth in this key region for the country.

We thank you for your full and fair consideration of this proposal.

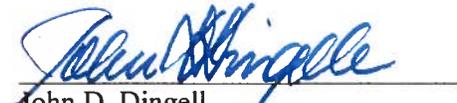
Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator



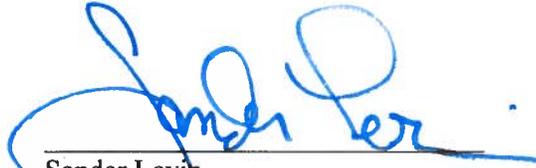
Carl Levin
U.S. Senator



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Gary Peters
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress