

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2013

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and
Science, and Related Agencies
H-309 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

Thank you for your strong support in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. We are writing to express our support for MEP as you develop the FY2014 bill and urge providing sustained, level funding.

Manufacturing is one of our country's greatest economic strengths, and demand for MEP services is greater than ever. Existing MEP centers are in need of these scarce funds to provide critical resources, serve new and existing clients, and create job growth. As a **public-private partnership**, MEP helps leverage funds in government, business, and academia to augment current state and local activities and industrial efforts and ensure that the federal government is not shouldering the full financial burden for the MEP program.

These federal funds, **provided on a competitive basis to nonprofit, state, or local organizations**, support a nationwide network of 60 centers and additional field offices. Centers are located in every state and provide a variety of services from innovation strategies to process improvements, all aiding efforts to increase productivity, expand economic growth, and foster job creation in our communities through smart technical, scientific, or managerial assistance to small- and medium-sized U.S. manufacturers with fewer than 500 employees. After six years, federal funding may be provided at no more than one-third of these costs if the center has received a positive, independent evaluation, thus providing built-in program accountability.

For twenty years, Congress has consistently recognized the importance of MEP for our manufacturing base. Moreover, MEP delivers a high return on investment to taxpayers. According to data from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, **for every one dollar of federal investment, MEP generates nearly \$20 in new sales growth** and \$20 in new client investment. This translates into \$2.5 billion in new sales annually.

We must continue to support the success of this program and innovation-sharing developed through research at federal laboratories, educational institutions, and corporations to help bring this knowledge to the hands of U.S. manufacturers. By doing so, MEP provides technical expertise to our U.S. manufacturing base, leading to higher tax receipts and new jobs in the advanced manufacturing sector. According to the American Small Manufacturers Coalition, small and medium-sized manufacturers employ 9 million workers in the U.S., and in **FY2012**

alone (based on services provided in 2011), MEP projects with small- and medium-sized manufacturers created or retained 61,139 jobs, generated more than \$2.5 billion in new sales, and provided cost-savings of more than \$900 million.

We believe MEP continues to be a wise investment. We respectfully request providing level funding to and through the existing MEP center network in FY2014.

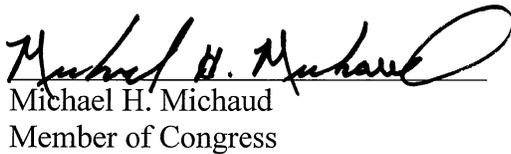
Sincerely,



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



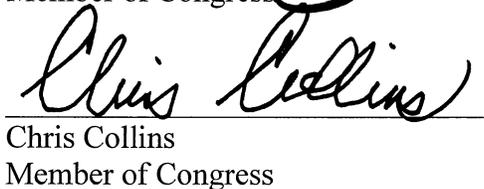
Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



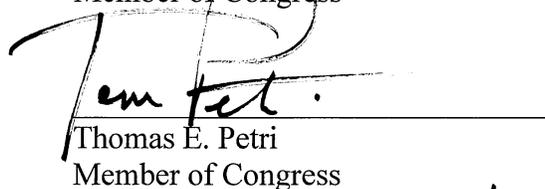
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Jon Runyan
Member of Congress



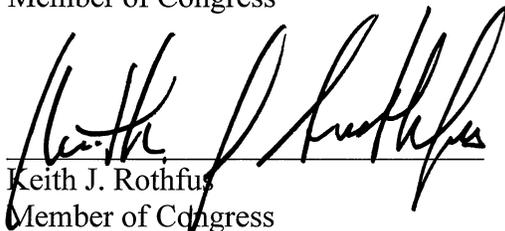
Chris Collins
Member of Congress



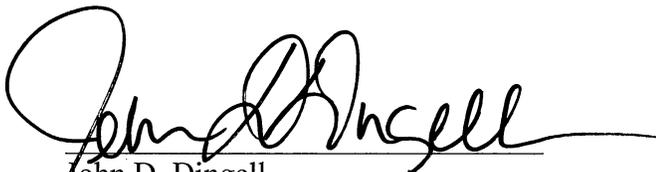
Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress

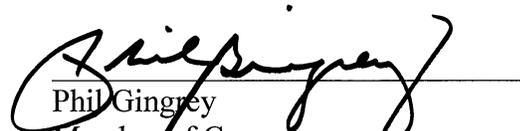


Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Keith J. Rothfus
Member of Congress


John D. Dingell
Member of Congress


Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress


John Conyers
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Sandy Levin
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

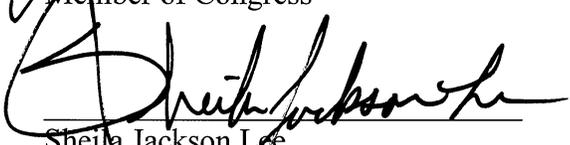

John Lewis
Member of Congress


Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

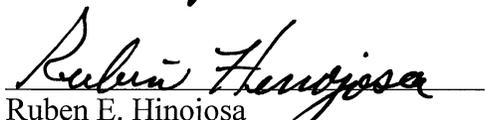

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

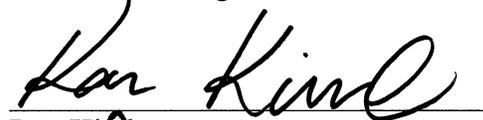

Terrold L. Nadler
Member of Congress


Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
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Ruben E. Hinojosa
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
Member of Congress

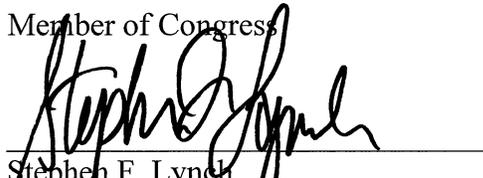

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
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Robert A. Brady
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Rush D. Holt
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Jan D. Schakowsky
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Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

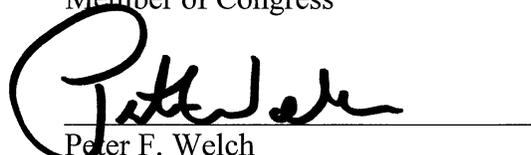

Dutch Ruppberger
Member of Congress

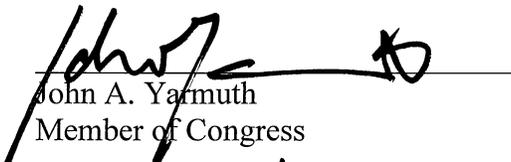

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Daniel W. Lipinski
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Dave W. Loebsack
Member of Congress

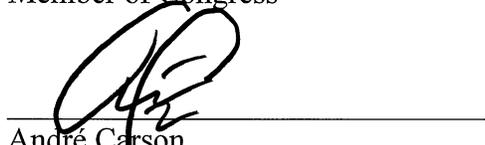

Peter F. Welch
Member of Congress

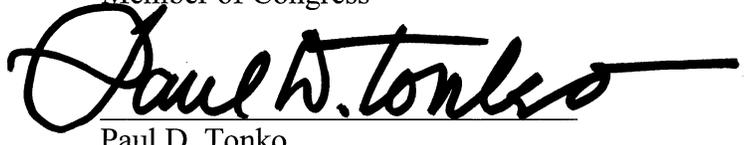

John A. Yarmuth
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Niki S. Tsongas
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Ben Ray Lujan
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Gary C. Peters
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André Carson
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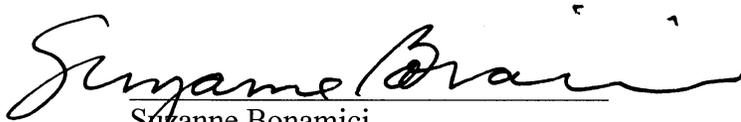

Paul D. Tonko
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Judy Chu
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Bill L. Owens
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Carol Shea-Porter
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Suzanne Bonamici
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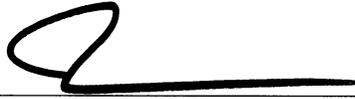

David N. Cicilline
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Cheri Bustos
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Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



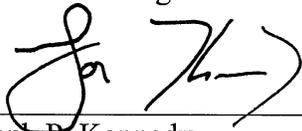
Matthew A. Cartwright
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John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



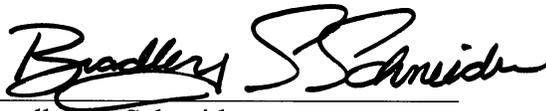
Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress



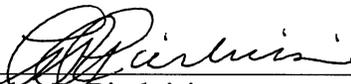
Joseph P. Kennedy
Member of Congress



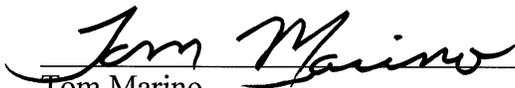
Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



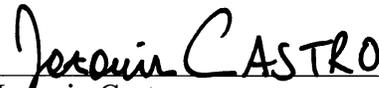
Bradley S. Schneider
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Pedro R. Pierluisi
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Tom Marino
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Joaquin Castro
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Tammy Duckworth
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Steven A. Horsford
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Ann McLane Kuster
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Mark Pocan
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Eric M. Swalwell
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Earl Blumenauer
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