

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

We appreciate your past support of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you increase funding for this program by \$87 million to \$275 million. We request this increase in baseline funding to support the expanded reauthorization for the program provided in the recently enacted CHIPS and Science Act.

The MEP program is our nation's only network of public-private partnerships that supports small- and medium-sized manufacturers in every state and Puerto Rico. Through the MEP program, manufacturers are connected with critical resources that strengthen the competitiveness of the U.S. manufacturing base. Ever critical in the face of supply chain bottlenecks caused by the pandemic, MEP provides support systems that help manufacturers improve supply chain integration, efficiency, productivity, profitability, and job retention.

The MEP program has a proven return on investment for the American economy and American taxpayers. In 2023, the Upjohn Institute for Employment Research found that for every dollar spent on the MEP program in FY2022, the federal government received a \$18.10 return on investment. Over the course of FY2022, MEP interacted with 33,500 manufacturers, reporting \$18.8 billion in new and retained sales, \$2.5 billion in cost savings, \$6.4 billion in new capital investments, and the creation and retention of more than 116,767 jobs. Since 1988, the National Institute of Standards and Technology estimates that MEP has worked with over 142,678 manufacturers, leading to \$144.4 billion in new sales, \$28.7 billion in cost savings, and the creation and retention of over 1.5 million jobs. The MEP 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.

The MEP program is critical to developing our domestic industrial base and resilient supply chains. With an additional \$87 million in funding, the MEP program could assist a greater number of smaller-sized manufacturers and help clients better confront the challenges of supply chain bottlenecks. During the pandemic, MEP Program Supplier Scouting services were able to identify U.S. manufacturers capable of supplying critically needed materials, such as personal protective equipment, medical equipment, and supplies. Increased investment would allow the

MEP program to expand its efforts to re-shore manufacturers, develop more domestic supply chains, and help the American economy weather future economic shocks.

Investing in this program is an investment in American resiliency. It is a job creating program with a strong return-on-investment of taxpayer dollars. We respectfully request that you continue your support of U.S. manufacturers and provide an additional \$87 million in funding for MEP in FY2024.

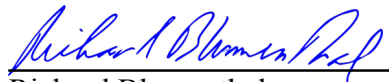
Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



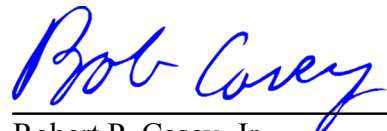
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



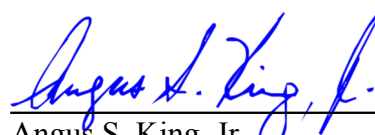
John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



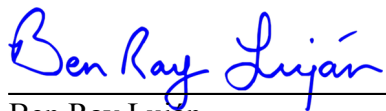
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



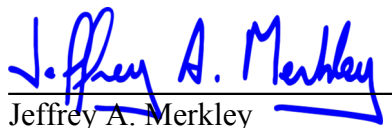
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator




Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator

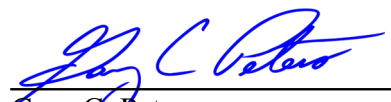



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator


  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator


  
Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator


  
Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator

  
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator


  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

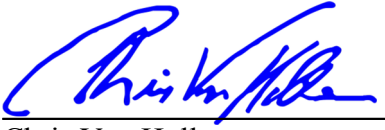
  
Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator

  
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

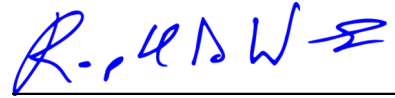
  
Tina Smith  
United States Senator

  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

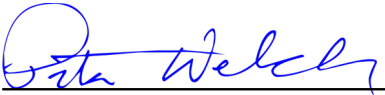
  
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



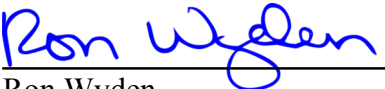
Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator