

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
H-310
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
H-310
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we write to ask for your continued support and increased funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program to \$275 million.

The MEP program is the only nationwide network of public-private partnerships that provide technology-based services to small- and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs), which they use to create good-paying manufacturing jobs. The MEP centers enable manufacturers to compete globally by providing access to critical information, training, and technologies that improve efficiency, productivity, and profitability.

MEP delivers a high return on investment to taxpayers. The Upjohn Institute for Employment Research conducted a study of MEP in 2022 and found that the program generates a 18.1:1 return on investment. According to an annual survey conducted by an independent firm, MEP clients reported \$16.2 billion new and retained sales and the creation or retention of 107,168 jobs in Fiscal Year 2023. Considering that the average U.S. manufacturing worker earns more than \$98,846 in wages and benefits per year, MEP clients are economic drivers in their communities. MEP clients are also increasing their capacity for the production of goods. MEP clients reported \$4.8 billion in new investments directly attributed to their work with MEP.

The MEP program's well-documented impact is substantial. Since 1988, MEP clients reported over 1.6 million jobs created and retained. Each of these jobs creates 4.8 full-time additional jobs, totaling more than 7.6 million additional jobs in local communities. The total job impact of the MEP Program generates significant local, state and federal tax revenues.

An increase in funding will allow the program to increase the number of manufacturers receiving MEP services through the expanded authorization in the recently enacted CHIPS and Science Act. Specifically, MEP will provide additional services to more companies within critical supply chains, such as automotive, aerospace, and priority defense sectors that support the growth and technological advancement of our military; develop and deploy new services in key areas such as cyber security, 3-D printing, Industry 4.0, flexible materials, broadband technology, and

supplychain optimization; and re-double efforts to assist US manufacturers with re-shoring, manufacturing repatriation, and creating domestic supply-chains.

The MEP continues to be a cost-effective, job-creating investment that boosts American manufacturing and competitiveness. We respectfully request that you provide \$275 million in funding for the MEP center network in Fiscal Year 2025.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



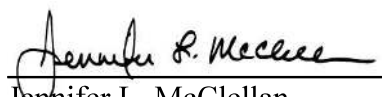
André Carson
Member of Congress



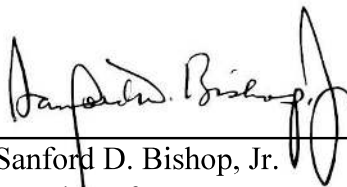
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



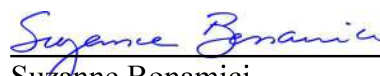
Nicole Malliotakis
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



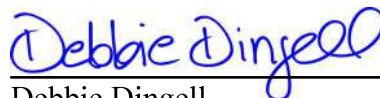
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



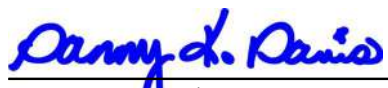
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Debbie Dingell
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Danny K. Davis
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Chellie Pingree
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Sharice L. Davids
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William R. Keating
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Brendan F. Boyle
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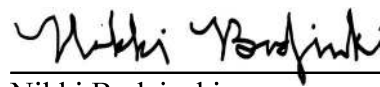
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



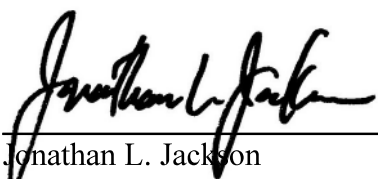
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Andy Kim
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Jimmy Panetta
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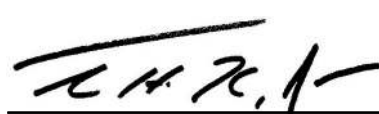
Gabe Amo
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Glenn "GT" Thompson
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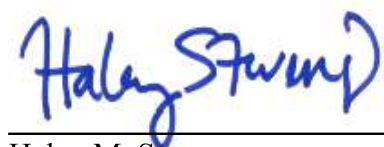
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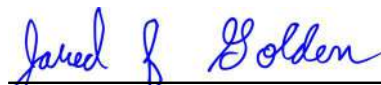
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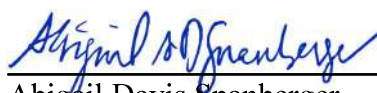
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Abigail Davis Spanberger
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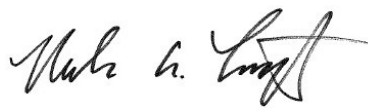
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David Scott
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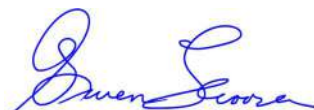
Rashida Tlaib
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Darin LaHood
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Gwen S. Moore
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Robert J. Menendez
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John P. Sarbanes
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Randy Feenstra
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Pramila Jayapal
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Steve Cohen
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Paul D. Tonko
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Dan Meuser
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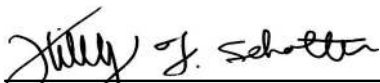
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Hillary J. Scholten
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Diana DeGette
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Wiley Nickel
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Donald G. Davis
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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Lucy McBath
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Ruben Gallego
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Marilyn Strickland
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Gus M. Bilirakis
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