

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 9, 2024

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) 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you increase funding for this program 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, 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. Over the course of FY2023, MEP surveyed 36,000 manufacturers, reporting \$16.2 billion in new and retained sales, \$2.9 billion in cost savings, \$4.8 billion in new capital investments, and the creation and retention of more than 107,168 jobs. Since 1988, the National Institute of Standards and Technology estimates that MEP has worked with over 154,031 manufacturers, leading to \$148.7 billion in new sales, \$31.6 billion in cost savings, and the creation and retention of over 1.6 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 additional funding, the MEP program could assist a greater number of smaller-sized manufacturers and help clients better confront the challenges of supply chain bottlenecks. 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 \$275 million in funding for MEP in FY2025.

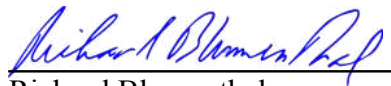
Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



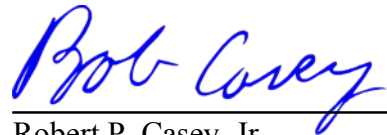
Richard Blumenthal
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Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



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United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
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Christopher A. Coons
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Tammy Duckworth
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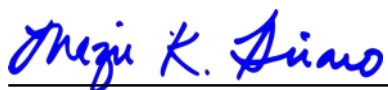
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



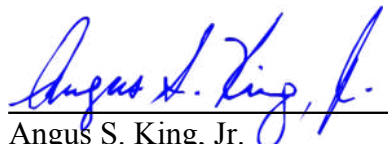
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator




Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



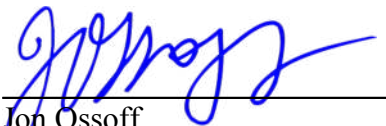
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



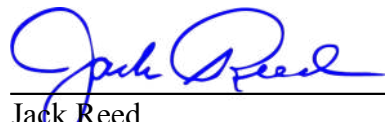
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



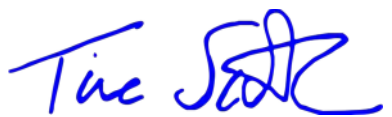
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
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Bernard Sanders
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Tina Smith
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Debbie Stabenow
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Jon Tester
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Chris Van Hollen
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Peter Welch
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator