

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 9, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we write to urge your continued support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. We respectfully request that you appropriate funding for the program to \$195.4 million and include report language directing at least eighty-five percent of these funds to MEP Centers.

The MEP program is the only nationwide network of public-private partnerships that provides technology-based services to small- and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs). These services enable SMMs to create good-paying manufacturing jobs, improve efficiency and productivity, and enhance global competitiveness. MEP Centers play a critical role in equipping manufacturers with the tools, training, and technologies necessary to compete in an increasingly demanding global market.

The impact of the MEP program is well-documented. According to an independent annual survey conducted in Fiscal Year 2024, MEP clients reported \$15 billion in new and retained sales directly attributed to MEP services provided. Additionally, MEP clients increased their production capacity, reporting \$5 billion in new investments over the same period.

American manufacturing is essential to securing our nation's supply chains. To maintain national security, we must reduce dependence on foreign nations for critical goods such as medical supplies, technology, and defense equipment. The requested \$20.4 million increase in funding will provide the necessary resources to strengthen domestic supply chains—an investment vital to our economic and national security. Furthermore, directing at least eighty-five percent of the funds to MEP Centers will maximize the program's effectiveness by ensuring resources reach the manufacturers that need them most.

MEP is the only national program that connects all levels of the supply chain, including small businesses, large Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), and government agencies. By

offering services such as reshoring, supplier identification, and risk reduction, MEP strengthens the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and reduces reliance on foreign production for essential goods.

Manufacturing remains the backbone of the American economy. Investing in small and medium manufacturers supports job creation, strengthens the middle class, and fosters economic growth in communities nationwide. In Fiscal Year 2024, MEP clients reported the creation and retention of 108,395 jobs. With the average U.S. manufacturing worker earning over \$102,629 in wages and benefits per year, these jobs generate significant local, state, and federal tax revenues, further driving economic prosperity.

By investing in the MEP program, the United States can reinforce its position as a global leader in manufacturing, ensuring economic security and strengthening domestic industries. We respectfully request that you provide \$195.4 million in funding for the MEP Center network in Fiscal Year 2026, along with report language directing at least eighty-five percent of those funds to MEP Centers.

Sincerely,



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress




Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



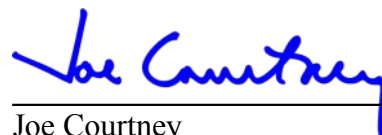
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Sharice L. Davids
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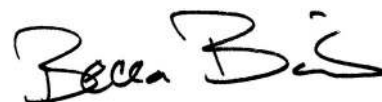
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Richard E. Neal
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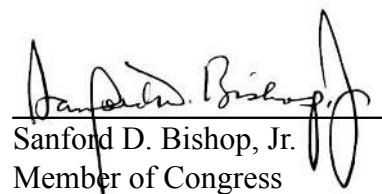
Diana DeGette
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Josh Riley
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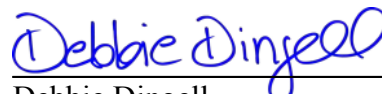
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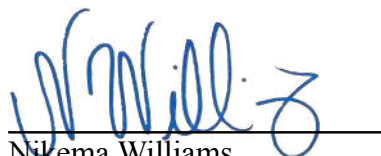
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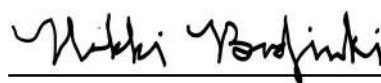
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Nikema Williams
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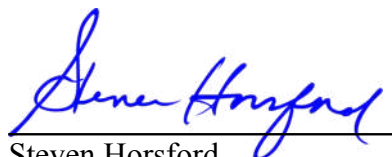
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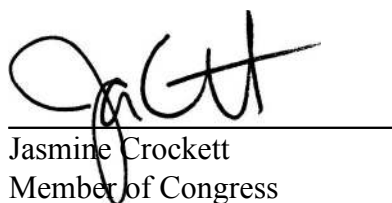
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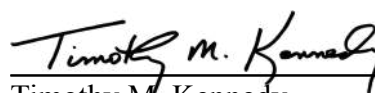
Gabe Amo
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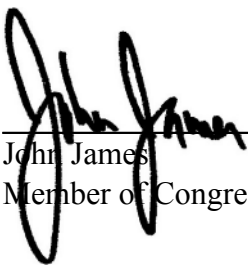
Seth Magaziner
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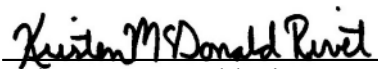
Mikie Sherrill
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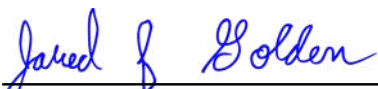
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Jefferson Van Drew
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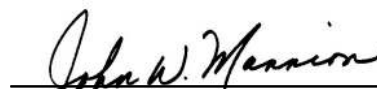
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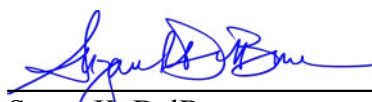
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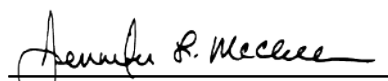
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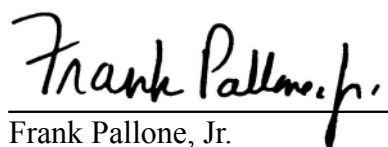
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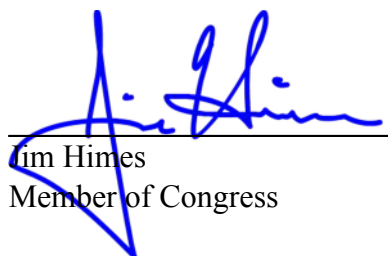
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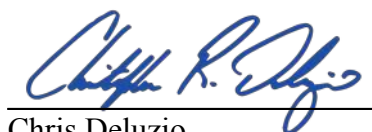
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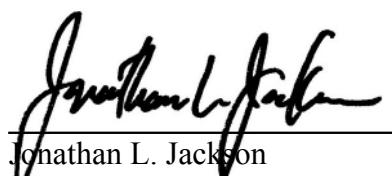
Jim Tokuda
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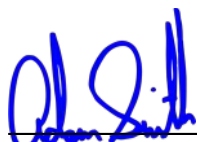
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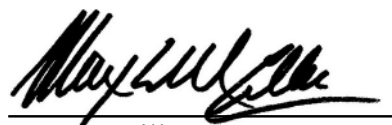
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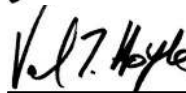
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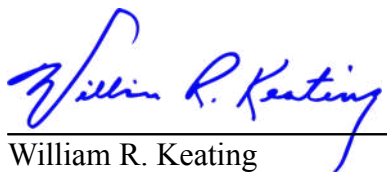
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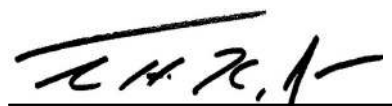
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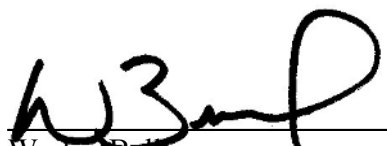
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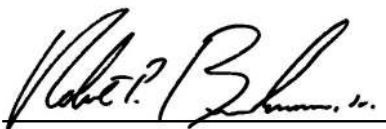
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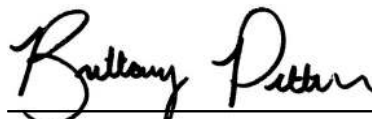
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Rob Bresnahan, Jr.
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Brittany Pettersen
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Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
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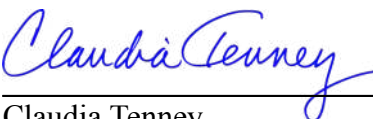
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