

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2026

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

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

Dear Chair Moran and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

As you work to prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge your continued support for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. We appreciate the Committee's strong past support for the program and request that you include at least \$200 million for this program in FY27. To ensure that program funds reach local communities without delay, we also ask that you include bill language requiring that National Institute of Standards and Technology promptly renew cooperative agreements for eligible MEP Centers and allocate no less than 85% of program funding directly to awardees.

MEP is our nation's only network of public-private partnerships that supports small- and medium-sized manufacturers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. MEP connects manufacturers with critical resources that strengthen the competitiveness of the U.S. manufacturing base by helping improve supply chain integration, efficiency, productivity, profitability, and job retention. In fact, according to estimates reported by MEP manufacturing clients, the MEP National Network helped manufacturers achieve \$15 billion in new and retained sales, \$5 billion in new client investments, \$2.6 billion in cost savings, and over 108,000 jobs created or retained in FY2024 alone. In short, MEP makes America's manufacturing sector more resilient and competitive.

MEP is a proven program that stimulates manufacturing sector growth and provides a strong return on investment for American taxpayers. This program is a critical part of larger domestic efforts to redevelop our industrial base and build more resilient supply chains. As such, MEP Centers need robust, consistent, and timely funding, and we urge you to include at least \$200 million for the MEP program in FY27 and the aforementioned bill language to ensure funding quickly reaches awardees each year.

Thank you for your attention to this important request, and we look forward to working with you to boost America's manufacturing sector.

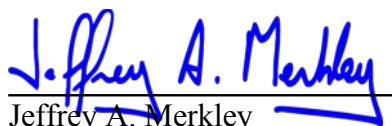
Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



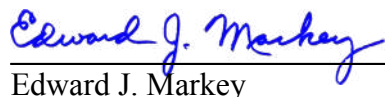
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



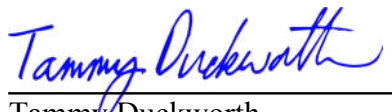
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



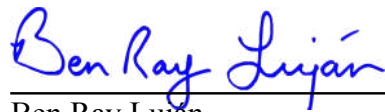
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator




Edward J. Markey
United States Senator




Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

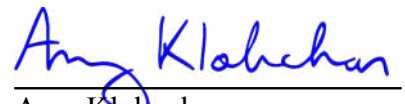



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator


John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

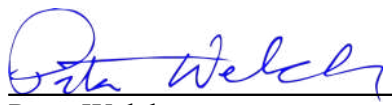

Andy Kim
United States Senator

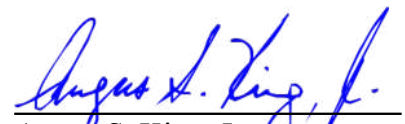

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

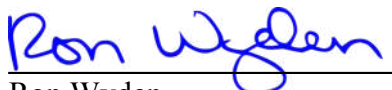

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

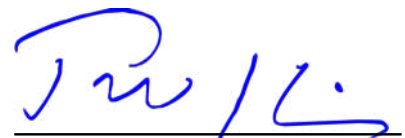

Peter Welch
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Tina Smith
United States Senator


Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator


Tim Kaine
United States Senator


Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Maggie Hassan

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Ruben Gallego

Ruben Gallego
United States Senator