Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we write to express our support for funding necessary to support a robust Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program.

Manufacturing is one of our country's greatest economic strengths, producing 12.5 percent of GDP. Small and mid-sized manufacturers employ nine million workers in the U.S. who earn an average of $77,505, including pay and benefits. Firms that innovate, invest in continuous improvement and capture global markets are winning in this new economy. Demand for MEP services is greater than ever, and existing MEP centers are in need of these scarce funds to provide critical resources, serve new and existing clients, and create job growth. **Maintaining the FY14 appropriation for MEP in fiscal year 2015 will allow the existing MEP Center network to continue to create jobs and respond to future challenges and opportunities in the manufacturing sector.**

The MEP program's well documented impact is substantial. In fiscal year 2014 alone (based on services provided in 2013), MEP projects with small and medium sized manufacturers created or retained 62,703 jobs, generated more than $2.2 billion in new sales and provided cost savings of more than $1.2 billion.

At a time when economic recovery is the national priority, we believe MEP continues to be a wise investment that generates nearly $19 in new sales growth for every federal dollar invested. **We respectfully request that you continue your strong support for MEP in FY2015 by at least maintaining the FY2014 appropriation level.**

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress
Republican Co-chair, Northeast Midwest Congressional Coalition

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress
Democrat Co-Chair, Northeast Midwest Congressional Coalition