March 25, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson  The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Chairman  Ranking Member
and Related Agencies  and Related Agencies
H-309 The Capitol  1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Fattah:

Thank you for your support of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in the fiscal year (FY) 2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill. We are writing to express our support for at least level funding for MEP in the FY2016 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill in addition to the following bill language request:

“Provided further that, Section 25(c) of 15 U.S.C. 278k(c) is amended by striking “for the first three years and an increasing share for each of the last three years” and Section 25(c)(5) is amended by striking “at declining levels” and replacing “one-third” with “one-half”.

Manufacturing is one of our country’s greatest economic strengths, producing 12 percent of GDP. Small and mid-sized manufacturers employ nine million workers in the U.S. On average, these workers earned $77,506, 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. **At least maintaining the FY2015 appropriation level for MEP in FY2016 and including the cost share reduction language 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 FY2015 alone (based on services provided in 2014), MEP projects with small and medium sized manufacturers created or retained 63,952 jobs, generated more than $6.7 billion in new and retained sales and provided cost savings of more than $1.1 billion.
At a time when economic recovery is the national priority, we believe MEP continues to be a wise investment. We respectfully request that you appropriate at least FY2015 funding levels to support the MEP center network in fiscal year 2016.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress
Joseph Courtney
Member of Congress

Susan Brooks
Member of Congress

Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

Collin Peterson
Member of Congress

Frank Guinta
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress
Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell Jr  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress

John Delaney  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

Sam Graves  
Member of Congress

John Conyers Jr  
Member of Congress

Chris Smith  
Member of Congress

Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress
Robert C. Scott
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress