

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
H-309 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
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:

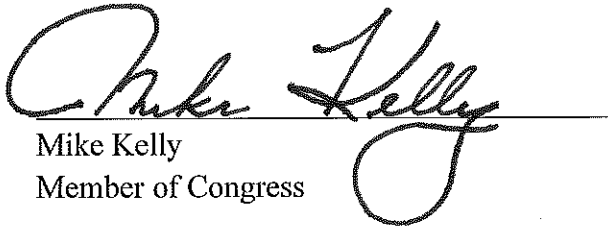
“Provided further that, Section 25(c) of 15 U.S.C. 278k(c) is amended by striking “for the first three years and an increasing share for each of the last three years” and Section 25(c)(5) is amended by striking “at declining levels” and replacing “one-third” with “one-half”.

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.**

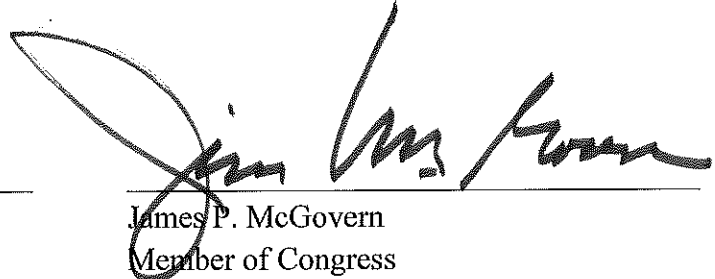
The MEP program’s well-documented impact is substantial. In FY2015 alone (based on services provided in 2014), MEP projects with small and medium sized manufacturers created or retained 63,952 jobs, generated more than \$6.7 billion in new and retained sales and provided cost savings of more than \$1.1 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.

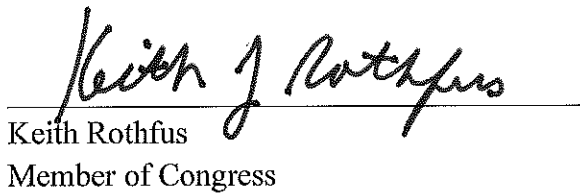
Sincerely,



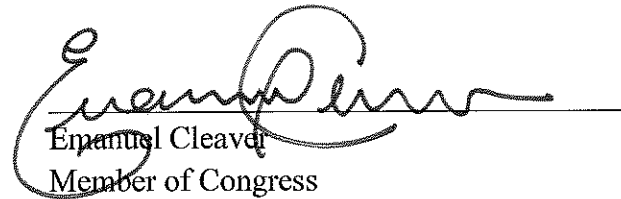
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



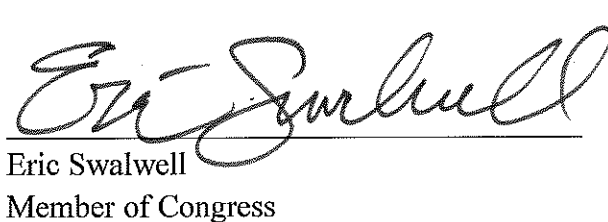
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



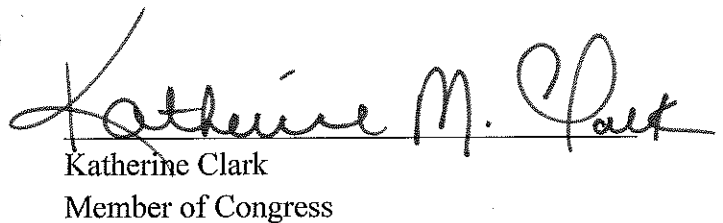
Keith Rothfus  
Member of Congress



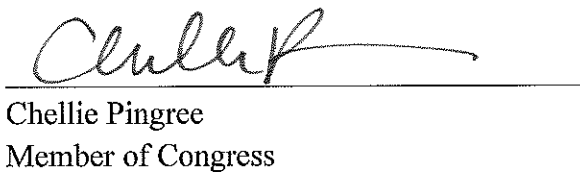
Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



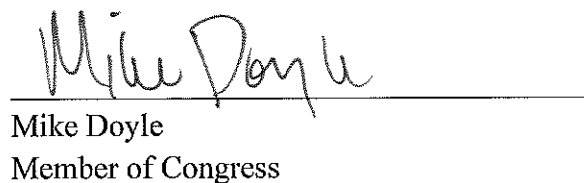
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



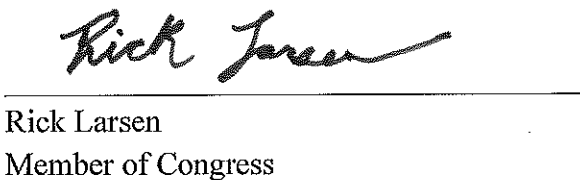
Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



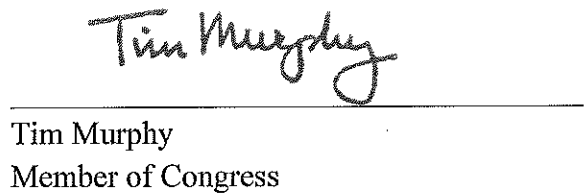
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



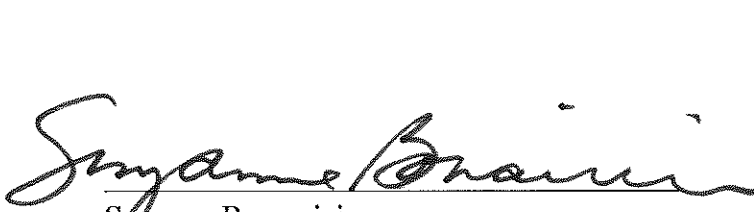
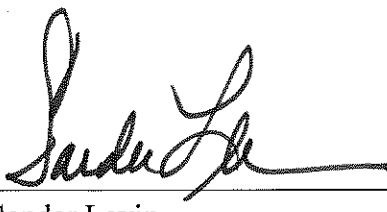
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress

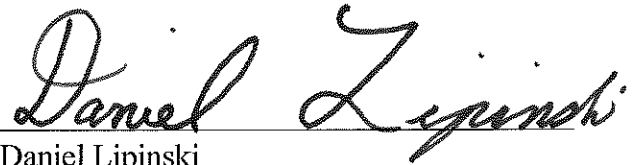
 

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



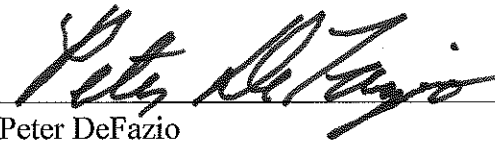
David Scott  
Member of Congress



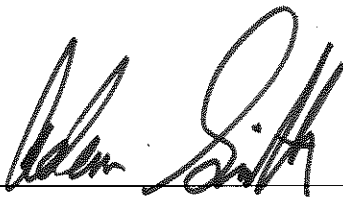
Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress



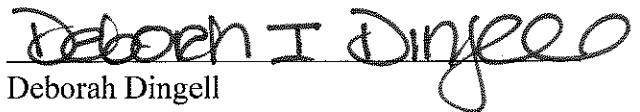
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



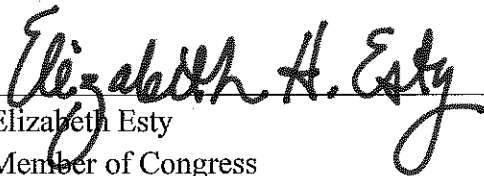
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Deborah Dingell  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress




Sam Farr  
Member of Congress




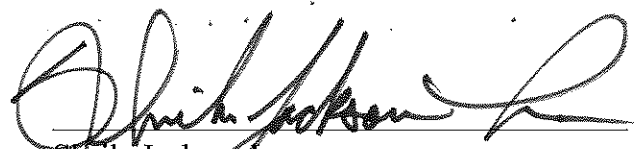
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

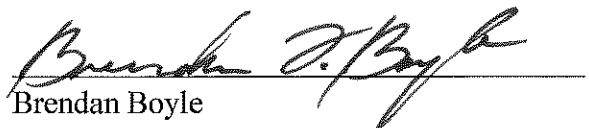



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

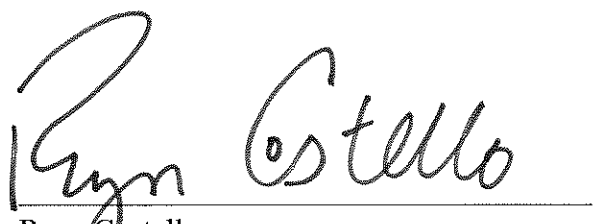
  
John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

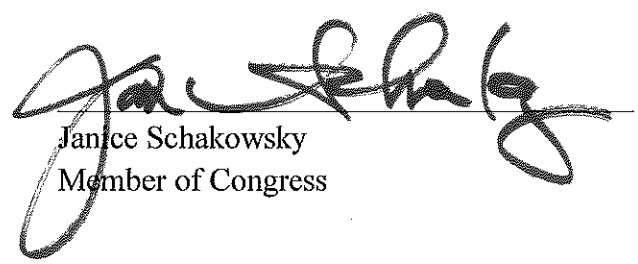
  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

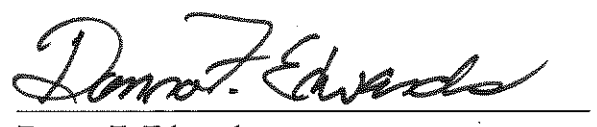
  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

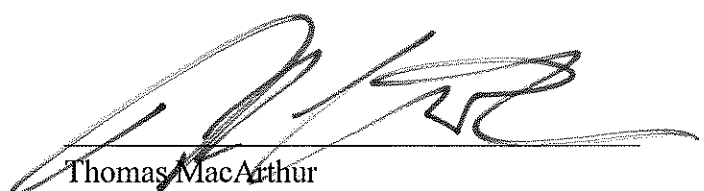
  
Brendan Boyle  
Member of Congress

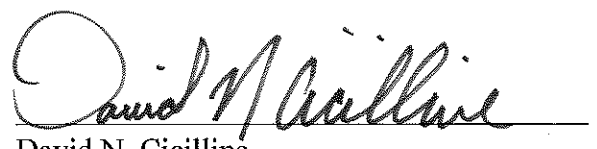
  
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

  
Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress

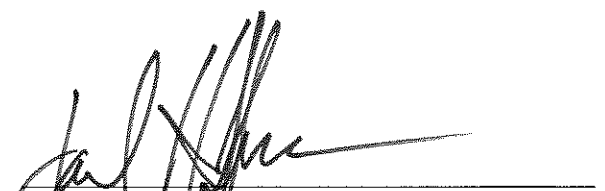
  
Janice Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

  
Thomas MacArthur  
Member of Congress

  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Joseph Courtney  
Member of Congress



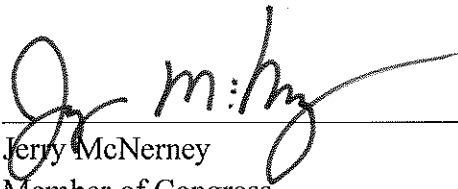
Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress



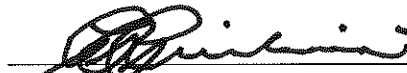
Matthew Cartwright  
Member of Congress



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



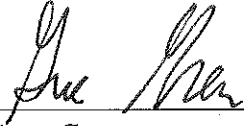
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress



John Delaney  
Member of Congress



Gene Green  
Member of Congress



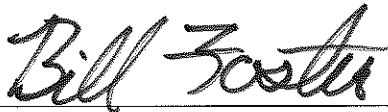
Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



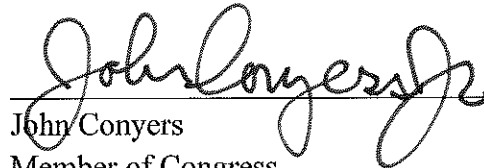
Bill Pascrell  
Member of Congress



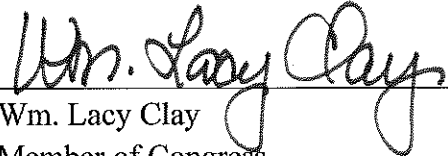
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



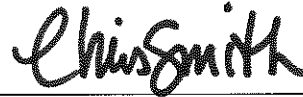
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



John Conyers  
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



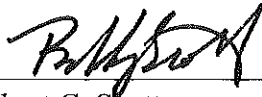
Chris Smith  
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress



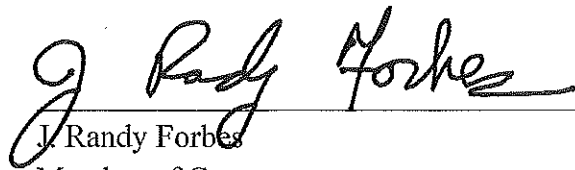
Robert C. Scott  
Member of Congress



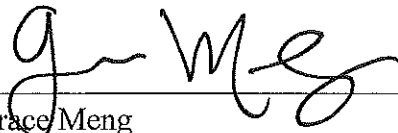
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress



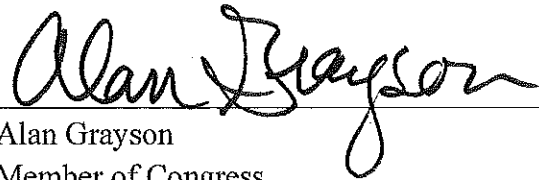
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



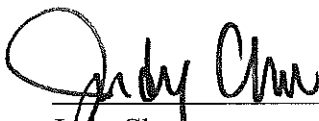
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



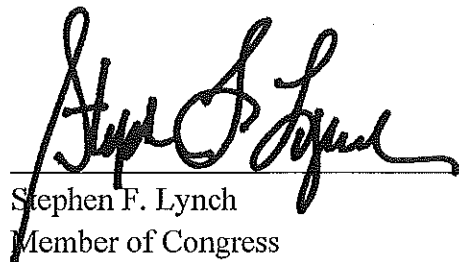
Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress



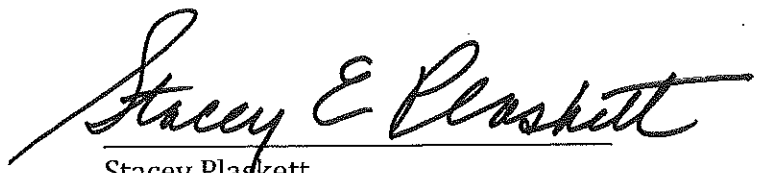
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



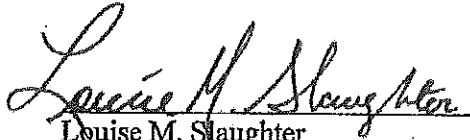
Stacey Plaskett  
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson  
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress