

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Fattah,

We are writing in strong support of robust funding for the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) Industrial Technical Services Account for the purpose of funding the Network for Manufacturing Innovation Program that was recently authorized in the *Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015*, P.L. 113-235. This Program will support the federal coordination, oversight, and funding of regional Centers for Manufacturing Innovation and their focus on research, development, application, commercialization, and workforce training of advanced manufacturing technologies.

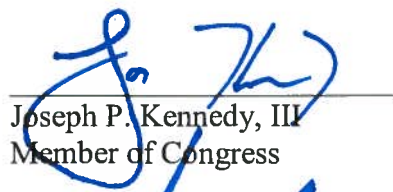
Robust funding will allow the Department of Commerce and NIST to stand up the National Office of the Network for Manufacturing Innovation Program. The Program Office will act as the convener of the network of institutes and provide a forum for institutes to share best practices and coordinate with one another. Most importantly, once fully operational, the Program Office will field proposals from consortia led by industry groups to tackle the next advanced manufacturing challenges. Federal funding, combined with matching private sector support, will allow the Program Office to support public-private partnerships to tackle many challenges facing the manufacturing industry.

Since 2012, the federal government has made competitive awards to five institutes across the country, including America Makes focused on 3D-printing technology based in Youngstown, OH; the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute based in Chicago; the Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow focused on lightweight metals manufacturing based in Detroit; Power America focused on semiconductor technology housed at North Carolina State University; and the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation led by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Three more institutes are in varying phases of proposal and development, including the Flexible Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing Innovation Institute, the Integrated Photonics Institute for Manufacturing Innovation, and the Clean Energy Manufacturing Innovation Institute on Smart Manufacturing.

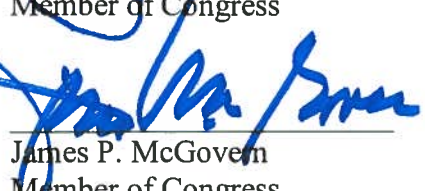
Last Congress, the bipartisan *Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act*, which provides Congressional authorization for the program, passed the House with overwhelming support. Robust funding for NIST Technical Services and the Network for Manufacturing Innovation will help American manufacturers accelerate development of advanced technologies, products, and processes, increase domestic production capacity, and remain competitive in the world market. At the same time, by focusing on education, workforce training, and commercialization of products, the program will prepare the next generation of skilled production workers and engineers.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information.

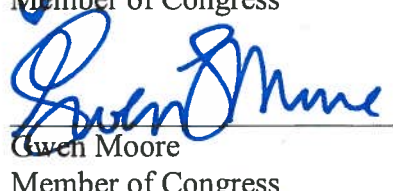
Sincerely,



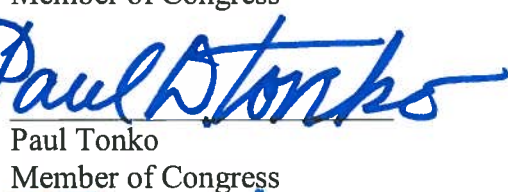
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



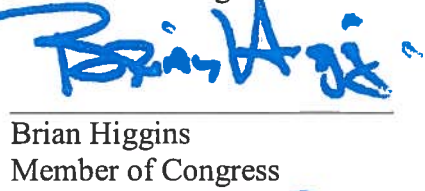
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



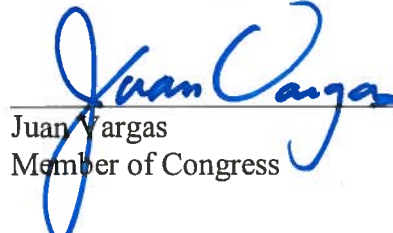
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress




Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



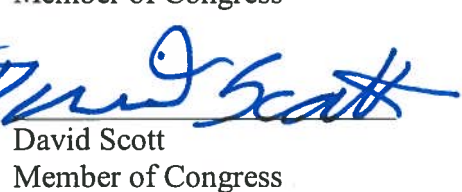
Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



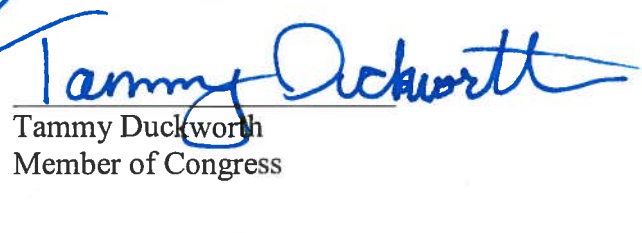
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



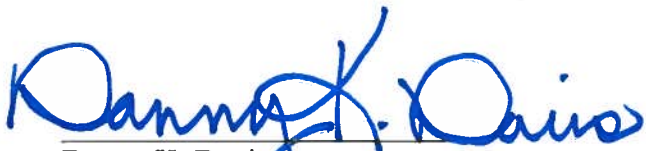
David Scott
Member of Congress

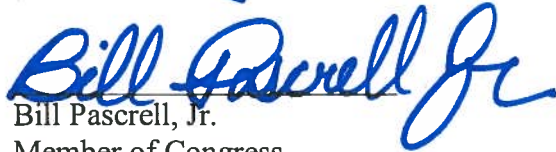



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

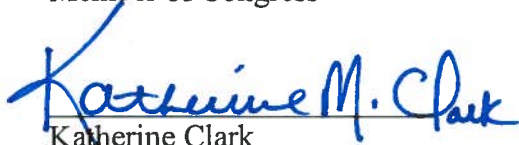


Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



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