

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2016

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

The Honorable Mike Honda  
Acting Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda:

Thank you for your support of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in the FY 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 2029). We are writing to express our support for the program as you develop the FY 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill and respectfully request \$140.4 million in funding in Fiscal Year 2017.

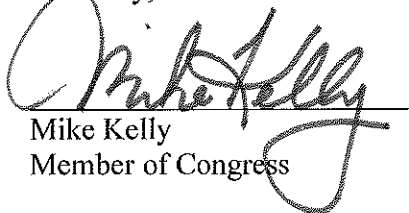
The MEP is the only public-private partnership dedicated to providing technical support and services to small and medium-sized manufacturers in every state. MEP is a nationwide network of proven resources that enables manufacturers to compete globally, supports greater supply chain integration, and provides access to information, training and technologies that improve efficiency, productivity and profitability. Full funding for MEP in FY 2017 will allow the existing MEP center network to facilitate job creation and respond to future challenges and opportunities in the manufacturing sector.

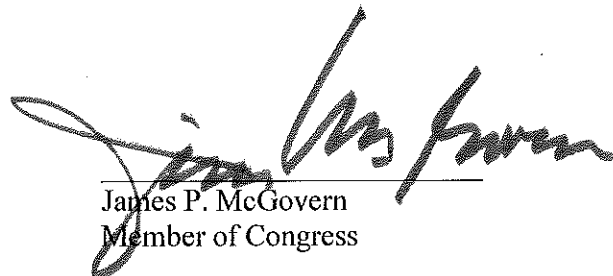
Demand for MEP services is greater than ever, and the program has a proven track record of boosting economic growth. According to data from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), every dollar invested in MEP facilitates \$17 in new sales growth. Based on services provided in FY 2014, MEP supported \$8.0 billion in new and retained sales and \$3.2 billion in investment in U.S. manufacturing. The program created or retained 68,477 jobs and provided support to 29,101 manufacturers. Since its inception in 1988, MEP has worked with more than 86,000 manufacturers and helped to create more than 797,000 jobs.


Although the unemployment rate has declined significantly, creating middle class jobs for the 7.8 million Americans who are unemployed remains a priority. MEP continues to be a cost-effective, job-creating investment that boosts American manufacturing and competitiveness.

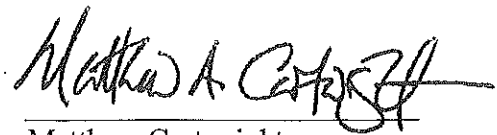
We respectfully request that you provide \$140.4 million in funding for the MEP center network in FY 2017.


Sincerely,

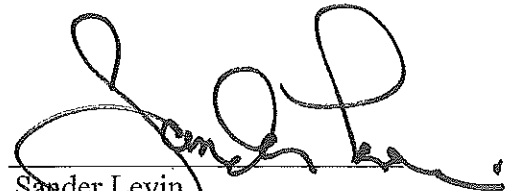
  
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress


  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

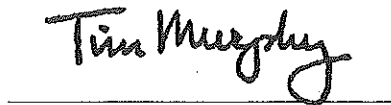
  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

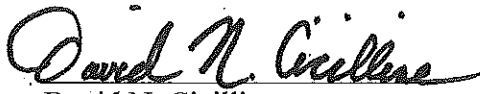
  
Matthew Cartwright  
Member of Congress


  
Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress

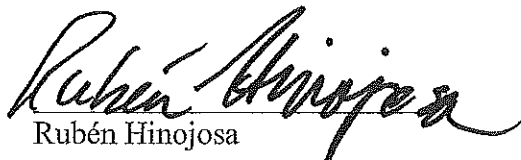
  
Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

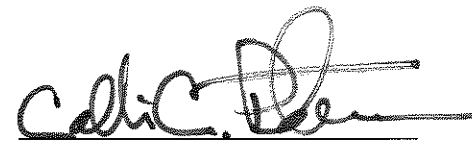
  
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress


  
Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress

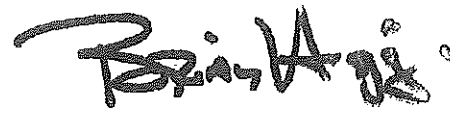
  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress


  
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress


  
Rubén Hinojosa  
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Colin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

  
Eilemon Vela  
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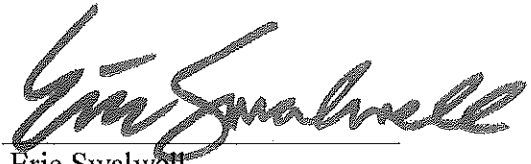
  
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

  
Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress

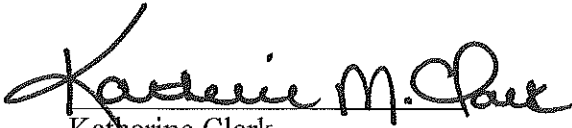
  
Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



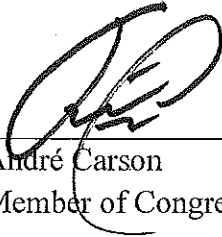
Chris Collins  
Member of Congress



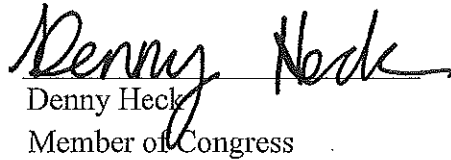
Pedro Pierluisi  
Member of Congress



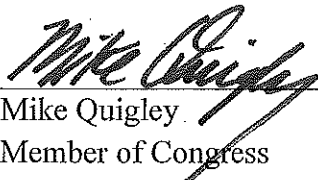
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



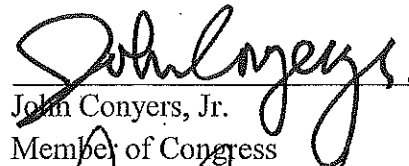
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Mike Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



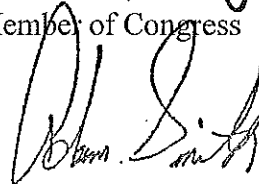
Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Robert C. Scott  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

*Cheri Bustos*

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

*Nydia Velázquez*

Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress

*Ryan Costello*

Ryan A. Costello  
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*Bob A. Brady*

Robert Brady  
Member of Congress

*Barbara Comstock*

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Member of Congress

*John K. Delaney*

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Member of Congress

*Susan W. Brooks*

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Member of Congress

*Ann McLane Kuster*

Ann McLane Kuster  
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*Keith J. Rothfus*

Keith J. Rothfus  
Member of Congress

*Tom Marino*

Tom Marino  
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*Donna F. Edwards*

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Member of Congress

*Joseph Crowley*

Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

*Frank A. LoBiondo*

Frank LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

*Chris Smith*


Chris Smith  
Member of Congress

  
John R. Moolenaar

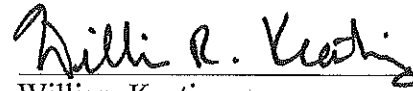
Member of Congress

  
Frank C. Guinta

Member of Congress


  
Niki Tsongas

Member of Congress

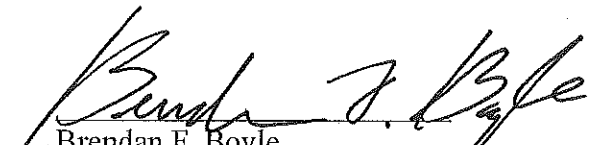
  
William Keating

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

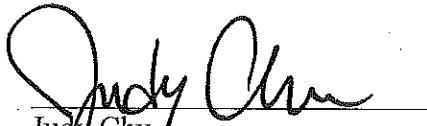
  
Sheila Jackson Lee

Member of Congress

  
Brendan F. Boyle

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

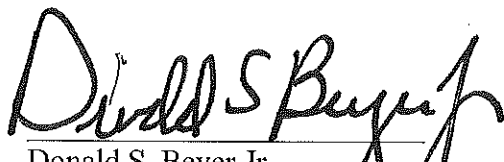
  
Judy Chu

Member of Congress

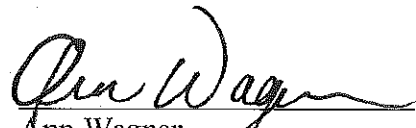
  
Alan Grayson

Member of Congress

Member of Congress


  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Member of Congress


  
Ann Wagner

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

  
Bruce Poliquin

Member of Congress

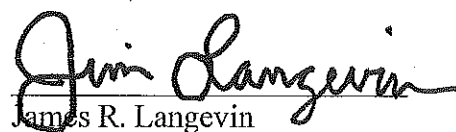
  
Seth Moulton

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

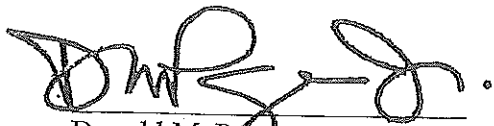
  
Lou Barletta

Member of Congress

  
James R. Langevin

Member of Congress

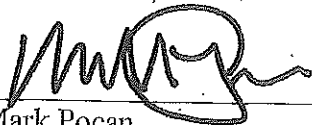
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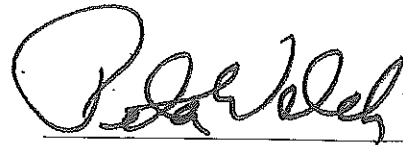
Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress



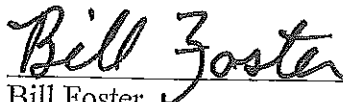
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



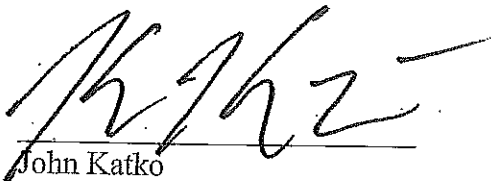
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



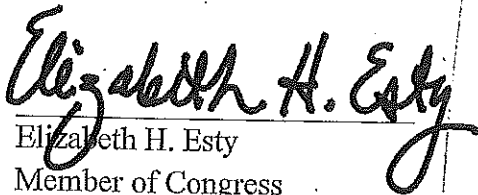
Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



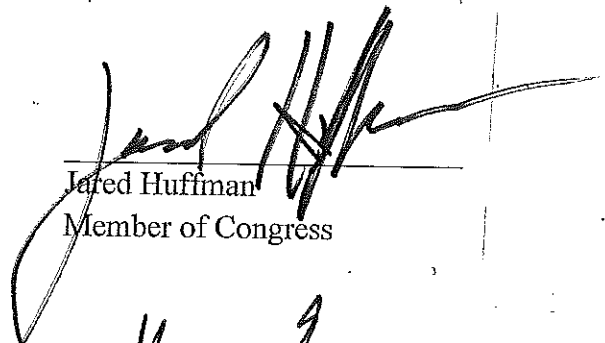
John Katko  
Member of Congress



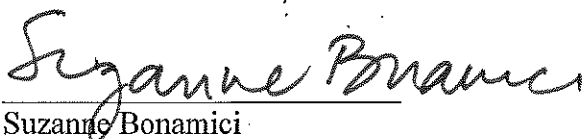
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Gene Green  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

*Danny K. Davis*

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Member of Congress

*Wm. Lacy Clay*

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Member of Congress