

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

There have been reports that your administration plans to cut \$10.5 trillion over 10 years from the federal budget. As you review programs, we respectfully ask that you preserve the U.S. Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) programs. Both programs have strongly helped small businesses, manufacturing companies, and working families. Consequently, we believe they require your support.

The American manufacturing sector has long been the primary driver of wage growth and has supported millions of middle class jobs. Despite the decline in manufacturing jobs since 2000, recent changes at home and abroad have led to a modest renewal of our domestic manufacturing sector. To accelerate this trend and help our middle class once again prosper, Congress and your administration must work together to create the best environment for manufacturers to thrive.

Both the MEP and the EDA support businesses in every state and have a direct impact on working families by aiding businesses and communities where people work and live. These programs have the ability to improve our domestic manufacturing competitiveness. Together, they have a broad reach that allows them to disseminate manufacturing knowledge and best practices across the nation.

The MEP, operating under the auspices of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), is a national network of centers that provide custom services to small and medium-sized manufacturers to improve production processes, upgrade technological capabilities, and facilitate product innovation. The EDA is the only federal government agency focused exclusively on economic development and it works directly with local economic development officials to make grant investments to cities, nonprofits, and businesses.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. In addressing our long-term fiscal challenges, we hope that your administration supports programs that provide much-needed aid and support to our manufacturing sector. We stand ready to work with you to enhance the long-term growth of the middle class by encouraging investment in physical and human capital, promoting research and development, and investing in our small and mid-size manufacturers.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

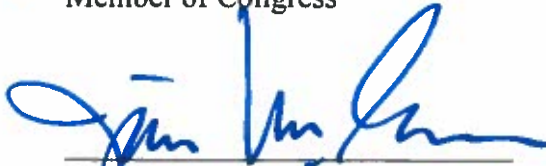

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress


Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress


Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Nydia Velazquez
Member of Congress


Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

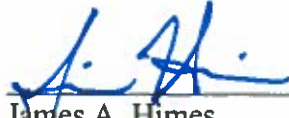

Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress




Darren M. Soto
Member of Congress



James A. Himes
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



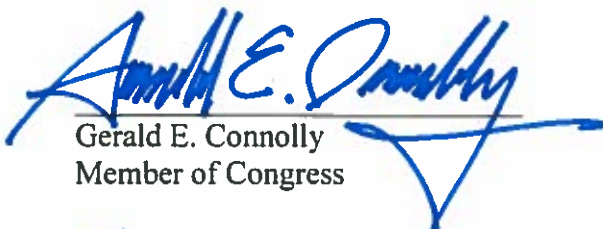
Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



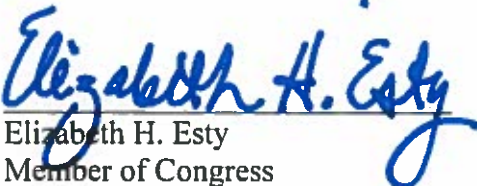
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



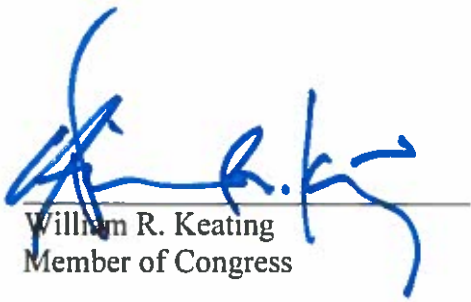
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



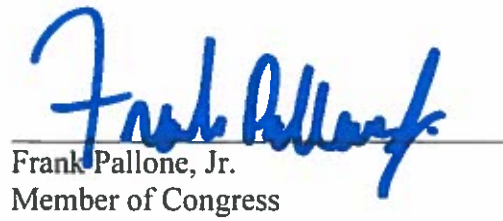
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
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Brian Higgins
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