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

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 Velázquez  
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
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress