



April 20, 2007

The Honorable David Wu  
House Science and Technology Committee,  
Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation  
2320 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wu:

On behalf of the American Small Manufacturers Coalition, which represents the nation's manufacturing extension agents; I want to offer our support for the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007 (H.R. 1868) as it provides necessary authorization language for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program.

Since the last enacted authorization in 1992, the NIST MEP program has continued to grow and provide valuable resources for America's small manufacturing community. This bill allows the MEP program to continue that successful growth in the future by providing increased authorization levels as well as significant programmatic changes. With the restructure of the MEP National Advisory Board, the MEP program will be able to receive knowledgeable advice and council from MEP clients and stakeholders on the program's future direction. This advice and council will allow the program to continue provide the market driven services so critical to the productivity of America's manufacturing community. The competitive grant program will also allow MEP Centers to focus on developing the necessary products and services to respond to these needs without loss to the Centers bottom-line. Finally, the bill provides incentive for MEP to continue working with other federal agencies to disseminate the successful government programs available to America's 341,000 small and medium sized manufacturers.

ASMC appreciates your commitment and dedication to these efforts and thanks you and your staff for your continued leadership and support for America's manufacturing and business communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carrie Hines".

Carrie Hines  
Executive Director