

March 11, 2008

Gov. Jennifer Granholm
Michigan

Gov. Mike Beebe
Arkansas

Gov. Jodi Rell
Connecticut

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware

Gov. Rod Blagojevich
Illinois

Gov. Chet Culver
Iowa

Gov. John Baldacci
Maine

Gov. Deval Patrick
Massachusetts

Gov. John Lynch
New Hampshire

Gov. Eliot Spitzer
New York

Gov. Mike Easley
North Carolina

Gov. John Hoeven
North Dakota

Gov. Ted Strickland
Ohio

Gov. Brad Henry
Oklahoma

Gov. Ed Rendell
Pennsylvania

Gov. Anibal Acevedo
Vilá
Puerto Rico

Gov. Mike Rounds
South Dakota

Gov. Tim Kaine
Virginia

Gov. Chris Gregoire
Washington

Gov. Joe Manchin
West Virginia

Gov. Jim Doyle
Wisconsin

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
U.S. Senate Appropriations
Committee

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, and Science
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Senator Shelby, Chairman Mollohan, and Congressman Frelinghuysen:

We are writing to you to express our strong support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program, which was not adequately funded in the President's FY 2009 budget proposal. We urge you to fund the MEP at \$122 million in FY 2009, which is the fully-authorized level (PL 100-69) provided for this important program.

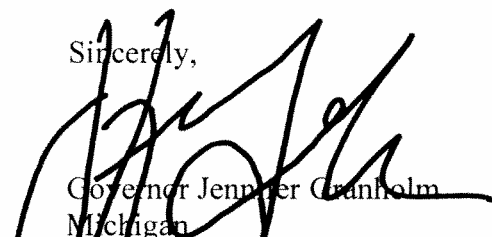
Manufacturing continues to be the backbone of America's economy, yet recovery in this industry is lagging behind other sectors of the economy. At this critical time, U.S. manufacturing needs our help more than ever. The MEP provides this help to small and mid-sized American manufacturers to modernize to stay competitive in our evolving marketplace. As a successful partnership between the federal government, states and small manufacturers, all stakeholders recognize that the MEP is important to business in our states and is a necessary component to national innovation and economic growth.

The impact of the MEP on manufacturing businesses is well documented. In a survey of MEP clients served from October 2005 to September 2006, companies around the country reported that as a result of MEP services, they created or retained over 52,500 jobs; generated or retained \$6.77 billion in sales; realized \$1.12 billion in cost savings; and invested \$1.65 billion in modernization including plants and equipment, information systems, and workforce and training. In FY 2007 alone, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership served 28,004 clients in ours and many other states.

Without the MEP's assistance, many of our small and mid-sized manufacturers may not be competitive in this global marketplace. On behalf of these companies and manufacturing workers in our states, we urge you to fund the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program at \$122 million in FY 2009.

Thank you for considering this important request.

Sincerely,



Governor Jennifer Granholm
Michigan



Governor Mike Beebe
Arkansas



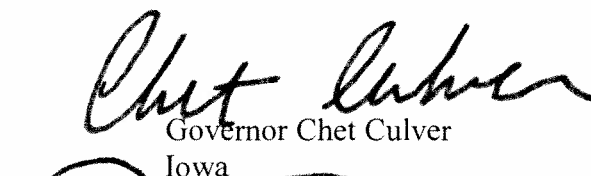
Governor M. Jodi Rell
Connecticut



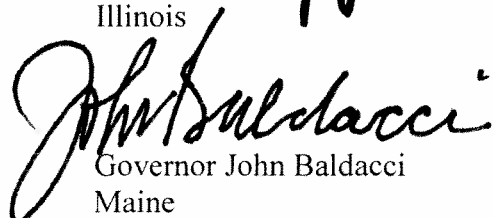
Governor Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware



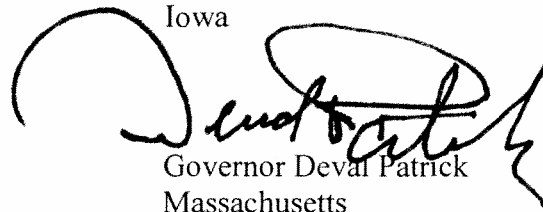
Governor Rod Blagojevich
Illinois



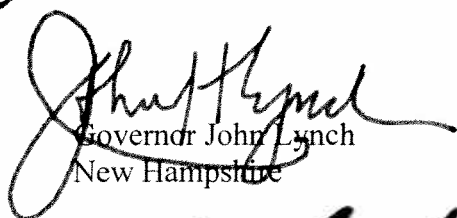
Governor Chet Culver
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Governor John Baldacci
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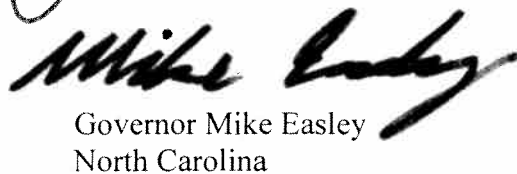
Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts



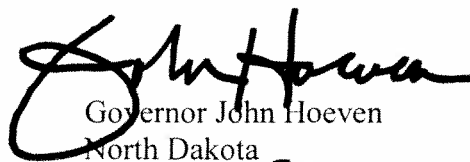
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Governor Eliot Spitzer
New York



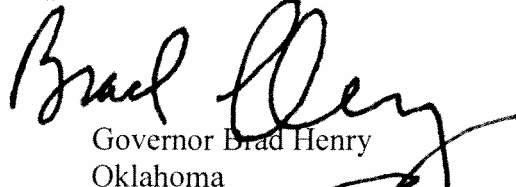
Governor Mike Easley
North Carolina



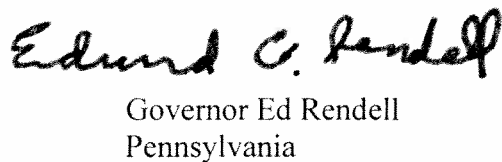
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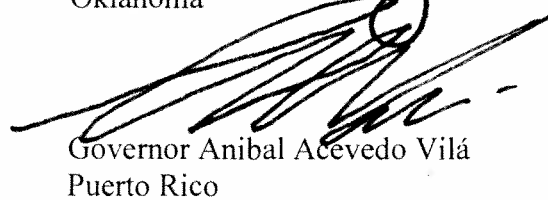
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