



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact:** Julia Wanzco (Snowe), 202-224-1304  
Kevin Kelley (Collins), 202-224-2523

## **Snowe, Collins Successfully Advocate for Funding of Manufacturing Workforce Program**

**WASHINGTON D.C.** – U.S. Senators Olympia J. Snowe and Susan M. Collins today announced that the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies has included \$500,000 in its Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations bill for a specialized workforce manufacturing training program. Administered by the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, on behalf of the New England states, the Mobile Outreach Skills Training, or M.O.S.T., program, trains and places individuals from the disadvantaged population in guaranteed entry level paid manufacturing positions.

“We are pleased that our colleagues recognized the value of funding this critical program that creates jobs and provides essential workforce training in the manufacturing sector,” said Senators Snowe and Collins. “Having seen the program’s results firsthand in Maine, we are confident that the return on investment for this unique initiative will continue to yield far-reaching results for the New England economy.”

"We are thankful that our Senators are and continue to be supportive of Maine's and New England's small manufacturers," said Bruce Pulkinen, Chairman of the Maine MEP Board of Directors. "These training funds will be critical in addressing shortages of workers in entry-level jobs. This program provides an opportunity to lift the new hires and their families out of poverty, provide health insurance for the first time, and position them for career ladders that allow long-term growth and higher earning potential."

The M.O.S.T. program provides rapid training and job placement of disadvantaged populations in high wage, high demand jobs in advanced manufacturing and green industries throughout New England.

Historically, Maine has been an integral player in spearheading regional manufacturing initiatives, including the initial two-year, \$3 million M.O.S.T. pilot program, which led to the training and placement of 300 new candidates in entry level positions in advanced manufacturing and green industries throughout New England.