Maine MEP director appointed to trade assistance board

AUGUSTA, Me. – Larry Robinson, center director at Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP), has been appointed to the board of directors of the New England Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (NETAAC), Maine MEP announced today. Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Massachusetts-based NETAAC offers cost-shared assistance to New England manufacturers impacted by imports. NETAAC’s goal is to help companies increase profitability and retain employees while competing with imported products. Gov. Paul LePage appointed Robinson to a one-year term.

“Because of Maine MEP’s similar focus on consulting with manufacturers to improve efficiency and competitiveness, I look forward to representing Maine on the NETAAC and helping companies throughout New England,” Robinson said.

As a board member, Robinson will join other New England business in managing and supervising the work of NETAAC. Companies that have experience at least a 5 percent decline in sales and employment, due in part to increasing imports of competitive products, are eligible for participation in the program. Federal funds cover a portion of the cost of consulting services designed to help the firm improve its competitive position. The amount of funding varies according to the size of the request, available resources and the company’s needs. NETAAC has aided manufacturers across varied sectors, such as apparel, furniture, high-tech, electronics, medical devices and others.

As a Maine MEP staff member since 2004 and center director since 2012, Robinson has led the field staff’s efforts to foster manufacturing innovation and economic growth. “Larry has helped numerous Maine companies with market studies, lean manufacturing, plant engineering improvements and many other goals and strategies employed by NETAAC,” said Muriel Mosher, Maine MEP president. “We are proud of the experience and expertise Larry brings to their work throughout New England.” Before joining Maine MEP, Robinson worked in electronics manufacturing and in engineering, and served with distinction in the U.S. Navy and currently serves in the U.S. Naval Reserves.

About Maine MEP
The Maine MEP is a program of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and an affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the U.S. Department of Commerce. The national MEP system is a network of manufacturing extension centers that provide business and technical assistance to smaller manufacturers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Through MEP, manufacturers have access to more than 2,000 manufacturing and business professionals whose job is to help firms make changes that lead to greater productivity, increased profits and enhanced global competitiveness. For information on the Maine MEP program, please visit www.mainemep.org, or phone 207-623-0680.

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