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Cc:

Date: Tue, 29 May 2012 21:54:16 -0400

Subject: NNMI Comments

I am writing to let you know that I fully endorse President Obama's initiative to create a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), a \$1 billion cost-shared program proposed in President Obama's budget for the next fiscal year. As I understand it, this will be an innovation infrastructure of linked regional hubs of manufacturing excellence, called Institutes of Manufacturing Innovation (IMIs). This is exactly what the United States needs right now! Although the US continues to be a leader in inventing and discovering, we often stumble in developing the processes and carrying out the other steps necessary to progress all the way from the early stages of innovation to marketable products. As Jonathan Dordick, director of RPI's Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies, said recently, "a fundamental innovation gap exists between academic research and commercial adoption." I could not agree more! What we need are closer linkages between the technology needs of manufacturers and the research strengths of our universities.

I have spent my entire 36 year career since graduating from college working in the Defense Industry. I have spent much of my last ten years advocating for manufacturing in the US. I have served on the Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Council, the Society of Manufacturing Engineering's Board of Directors and the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining's Board of Directors which I currently chair. I also currently serve as the Vice Chair of the Manufacturing Division of the National Defense Industrial Association. President Obama's NNMI initiative couldn't come at a better time! I truly feel this program could become the foundation of a turning point in the US for the rebirth of manufacturing, which I personally believe is exactly what we need right now! Where manufacturing is, so is innovation. We need to figure out ways to keep the great ideas that Americans come up with for new products and find affordable ways to manufacture those new products here in the US. NNMI will be an excellent starting point!

I would be happy to discuss my views on this subject with anyone at any time. If I can be of help in anyway, please feel free to contact me!

Sincerely,

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