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Congress of the United States
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March 24, 2011

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf, Chairman
The Honorable Chaka Fattah, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

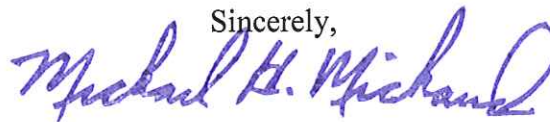
Thank you for your support of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in the fiscal year 2011 Continuing Resolution. I am writing to request your continued support for the MEP program in the FY12 Commerce, Justice, State and Related Agencies Appropriations bill in the amount of \$125 million – consistent with its FY10 level.

Manufacturing is one of our country's greatest economic strengths. The U.S. is the world's largest manufacturing economy, producing 21 percent of global manufactured products. Small and mid-sized manufacturers employ nine million workers in the U.S. Those workers earned on average \$74,447, including pay and benefits, in 2009. A \$125 million appropriation for MEP in fiscal year 2012 will allow the existing MEP Center network to continue to create jobs and respond to future challenges and opportunities in the manufacturing sector.

The MEP program's well documented impact is substantial. In fiscal year 2010 alone (based on services provided in 2009), MEP projects with small and medium sized manufacturers created or retained 72,075 jobs, generated more than \$8.4 billion in sales and provided cost savings of more than \$1.3 billion. MEP has been a huge success in Maine. Since 2006 MEP has helped more than 260 companies create 670 jobs and retain more than 2,000 jobs that would have otherwise been lost. Through MEP's assistance, these companies have increased and retained more than \$340 million in sales and invested more than \$68 million in Maine's economy.

MEP has benefited Maine's economy in numerous tangible ways. At a time when economic recovery is the national priority, I believe MEP continues to be a wise investment. I respectfully request that you appropriate \$125 million for the existing MEP center network in fiscal year 2012.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

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