



April 11, 2025

We, the undersigned partners of a statewide organization of manufacturing/business associations working together on behalf of manufacturing success, are writing this letter in strong support of continued funding for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program.

Despite proven results and the program's longstanding bipartisan support, MEP Centers were recently notified by the U.S. Department of Commerce that their federal funding would not be renewed—even though Congress has authorized and appropriated funding for this purpose. Without such crucial support, MEP Centers will be forced to operate independently, leaving the most vulnerable, particularly rural and underserved communities, at the highest risk of losing access to these essential services.

The MEP is the only nationwide network of public-private partnerships that provides technology-based services to small and medium-sized manufacturers. We have seen firsthand the measurable impact of the MEP program in supporting advancements and innovations within the manufacturing sector and the program's role in promoting the growth of domestic manufacturing. We respectfully request that you urge U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Michael G. Lutnick to restore funding to this vital program.

In New York State, the MEP program operates through the New York State Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NY MEP), a vital resource that serves manufacturers across the state through a network of 10 regional centers and one statewide nonprofit. NY MEP provides expert guidance and critical services designed to help manufacturers remain competitive, adopt modern technologies, navigate supply chain issues, access workforce training initiatives, and achieve sustainable growth in a rapidly evolving global marketplace.

The numbers speak volumes. Over a five-year period from 2019 to 2023, NY MEP has:

- Contributed to the creation or retention of **32,756 jobs**
- Completed **4,425 projects** with New York State manufacturers
- Generated **over \$7.6 billion in total economic impact**

Moreover, NY MEP delivers a **\$125 return on investment for every \$1 dollar of federal and state government funding and creates or saves one job for every \$1,490 invested**. Small and mid-sized manufacturers rely on MEP Centers to navigate complex challenges, modernize their operations, and compete in a global economy. Now, more than ever, continued federal support is essential to maintaining this lifeline for the manufacturing industry.

We urge you to support the restoration of funding for the MEP Centers that lapsed as of April 1st and to advocate for sustained investment in the program throughout the state and nation. Let us continue to together champion innovation, competitiveness, and growth in American manufacturing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Respectfully,

Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance (BNMA)

Center for Economic Growth (CEG)

The Council of Industry (CI)

Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce

Ignite Long Island (Ignite LI)

Manufacturers Association of Central New York, Mohawk Valley & North Country (MACNY)

Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier (MAST)

Rochester Technology & Manufacturing Association (RTMA)