

American Made: Ensuring a Strong Economy

Office of Congressman Ron Kind

Representing Wisconsin's Third Congressional District

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We must build, construct and grow manufacturing in Wisconsin and across America in order to ensure a strong American economy.

By capitalizing on existing American strengths – a well educated and well trained labor force, innovation, and competitive spirit; supporting the transformation and growth of America's manufacturers to move into the markets of the future; and by coordinating with federal, state, local governments and private institutions, we can ensure America's economic success.

BUILD UPON SOLID LABOR FORCE FOUNDATION

We need to get people back to work now with near-term projects while at the same time, grow and train the skilled workforce needed for tomorrow's high-tech manufacturing jobs.

- **Worker Training.** Expanding current training and education efforts will help meet the transforming demands of manufacturers. We must support and encourage both public and private programs that provide technical training and retraining, improve manufacturing efficiencies and profitability, and help manufacturers develop marketing and sales skills to build capacity and grow demand.
- **Grow and Attract Scientific Talent.** We must nurture, grow and retain talent here in America so that innovation and future development feeds back into our manufacturing base.
- **Infrastructure Investment.** Rebuilding our existing infrastructure and constructing new systems (i.e. smart grid and broadband systems) will help us efficiently access goods at the best price.

ENCOURAGE AND INVEST IN NEW IDEAS

America must continue to be at the forefront of innovation. This means fostering innovation and encouraging our businesses and entrepreneurs to build, construct and grow cutting-edge manufacturing here in the U.S.

- **Improve Research and Development Tax Incentives.** R&D tax credits need to be reliable and permanent so that firms are encouraged to make long-term R&D investments.
- **Promote Collaboration between R&D and Production.** We need to bridge the gap between research and creation by fostering "cluster" programs and establishing mechanisms where local researchers can receive funding to bring their ideas to reality.
- **Encourage Long-Term Capital Investments.** Businesses need sufficient cash flow and confidence in future growth. By encouraging banks to make loans to businesses of all sizes – easing financing - businesses will better be able to access the resources needed for investing in new projects.
- **Promote Innovation at the Small Business Level.** Small firms are important incubators for ground-breaking innovations because their R&D byproducts are often used by finished goods manufacturers. We must continue to foster innovation at this level.

MAKE GLOBAL PRESENCE A PRIORITY

Over 6,000 Wisconsin companies export goods – 87% of these companies are small and medium-sized enterprises. To effectively compete in a global economy, America must work with other countries to ensure that our manufacturers are treated fairly and have the opportunities to compete in new markets.

- **Enforce International Trade Agreements.** Trade Agreements ensure there are clear terms for market access and provide critical protections for businesses operating in multiple markets. We must ensure these standards are consistently enforced.
- **Create New Trade Agreements and Find New Markets.** We must work with businesses to identify and grow opportunities by connecting them with government experts here and abroad.
- **Improve our Tax Competitiveness, Close Foreign Tax Loopholes and End Currency Manipulation.** Reviewing our tax structure will help our businesses stay competitive. We must also stop the illegal manipulation of currencies that injure U.S. manufacturers' ability to compete.