

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2012

The Honorable Rebecca Blank
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Blank,

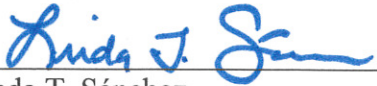
We appreciate your commitment to strengthening the American manufacturing sector and share your goal to improve American manufacturing competitiveness—and offer our support, cooperation, and assistance in this endeavor. To that end, we write to encourage you to expand the Manufacturing Council to include representatives from industrial trade unions.

The Manufacturing Council serves as the principal private sector advisory committee to the Secretary of Commerce on the United States manufacturing sector. The Council provides a forum for discussing and proposing solutions to industry-related problems and to ensure that the United States remains the preeminent destination for investment in manufacturing throughout the world. As such, the absence of a single representative from organized labor is striking. The AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Council, representing millions of manufacturing workers, has a wealth of policy expertise and experience in the areas of good job creation, training and education, infrastructure and community investment, and industrial competitiveness. The unions of the IUC frequently work with their employer-counterparts to develop common-sense policy solutions to the challenges America faces.

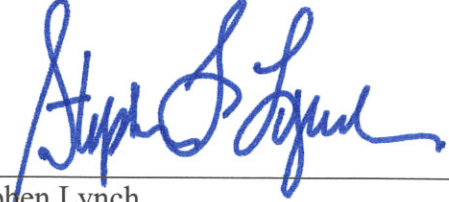
Given this depth of knowledge and experience, the Manufacturing Council can only be enhanced by adding voices from organized labor. At a time when the U.S. has already had 1.9 million manufacturing jobs displaced to China since it joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, more than ever, the Nation needs to approach manufacturing policy cooperatively—not by hearing separately from labor and business, but by hearing how their different ideas can be combined creatively to accomplish what “business as usual” has not been able to do.

To ensure that the U.S. remains the preeminent destination for investment in manufacturing throughout the world, we encourage you in the strongest terms to seek out qualified representatives from organized labor to join the Manufacturing Council. We stand ready to assist you in this matter.

Sincerely,



Linda T. Sánchez
Labor and Working Families Caucus Co-Chair
Member of Congress



Stephen Lynch
Labor and Working Families Caucus Co-Chair
Member of Congress



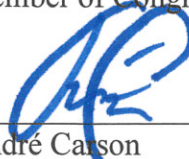
Joe Baca
Member of Congress



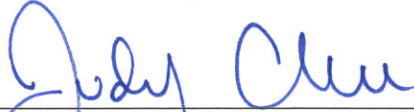
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



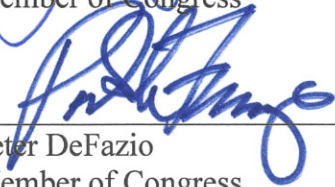
André Carson
Member of Congress



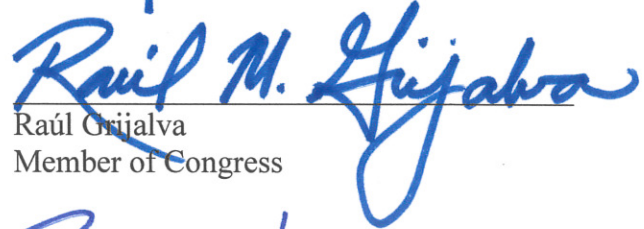
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



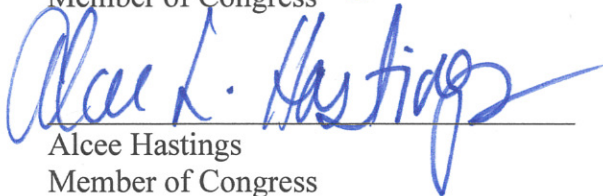
Mark Critz
Member of Congress



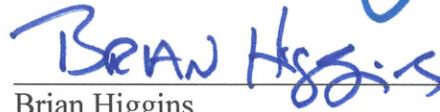
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



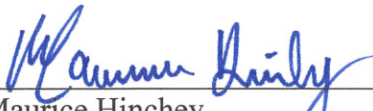
Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



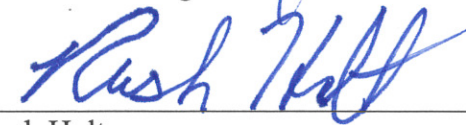
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



Tim Holden
Member of Congress



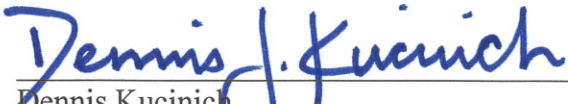
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



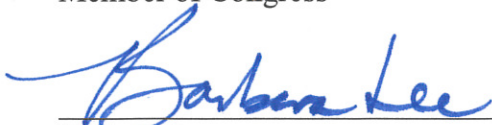
Mike Honda
Member of Congress



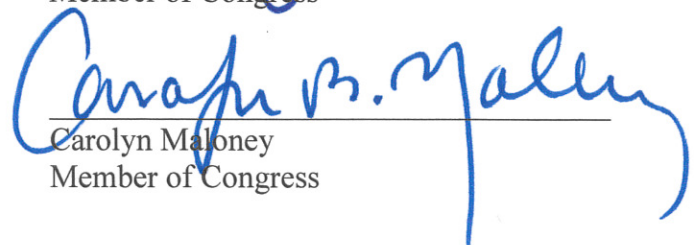
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress




Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

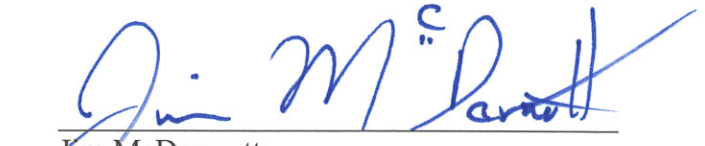


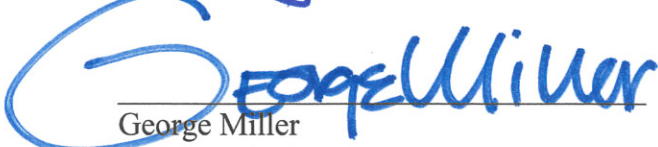
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

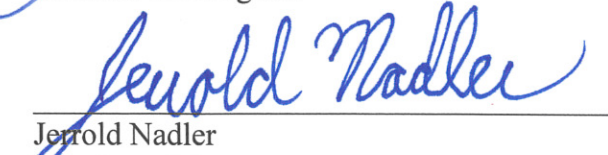


Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

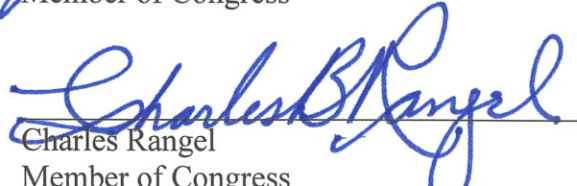

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

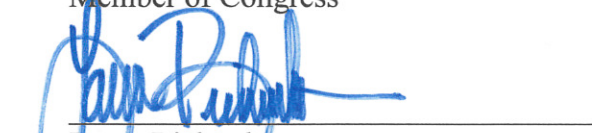

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

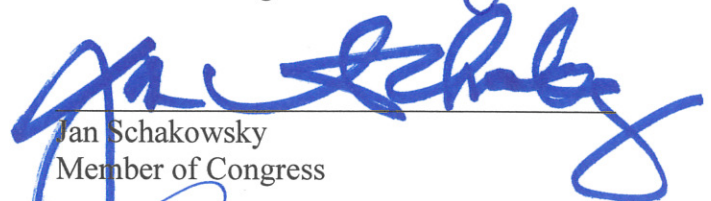

George Miller
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

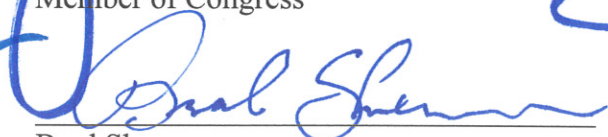

Richard Neal
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel
Member of Congress


Laura Richardson
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


José E. Serrano
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress


Pete Stark
Member of Congress


Betty Sutton
Member of Congress