



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
28TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK
July 11, 2012

Mr. Matt Erskine
Acting Assistance Secretary
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20230

Dear Mr. Erskine,

I write today in support of the Rochester Regional Optics, Photonics, and Imaging Accelerator Program's application for funding under the Advanced Manufacturing Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge (AMJIAC).

I am proud of the fact that five leading Rochester, New York-based organizations, including academic and industry leaders, have joined together on this application.

Rochester, New York has long been known as the imaging capital of the world. Industry giants Kodak, Xerox, and Bausch + Lomb were all started here. What began with photography 120 years ago has expanded into a cluster that encompasses all of modern optics, photonics, and imaging (OPI). Today 140 OPI and supporting companies in the Rochester region employing over 20,000 people and produce over \$4.5 billion in manufactured goods each year. OPI companies were responsible for over 50% of the entire manufacturing output of the region in 2010 and 2011. The Rochester OPI cluster is the largest manufacturing cluster in New York State and the largest in any medium sized city in the country.

The Rochester OPI cluster is also important to our country. OPI companies manufacture critical optical components for the US defense, biomedical, industrial, and consumer and markets. Advanced lens manufacturing technologies that are critical to the national security are being developed and implemented in the Rochester region. Rochester OPI companies are also responsible for 40% of the patents coming out of region, which has the 5th highest number of patents per capita in the US.

Last month I hosted a trade forum featuring Dennis Shea, Chairman of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission. During his remarks Mr. Shea mentioned the importance of 'Industrial Commons' as a means to compete effectively on the international stage. As you may know Industrial Commons refer to a foundation of knowledge and capabilities (technical, design and operational) that is shared within an industry sector. The AMJIAC grant would allow the Rochester Regional Optics, Photonics, and Imaging Accelerator Program to strengthen the infrastructure, workforce and supply chain relationships that comprise the OPI Industrial

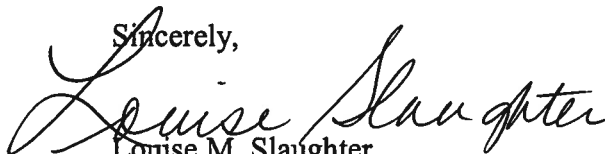
Commons that exists today.

The importance of keeping our Industrial Commons strong cannot be overstated. As U.S. companies compete in an increasingly global marketplace they face an uphill fight. From currency manipulation to intellectual property theft to state-run organizations and unfair trade deals our manufacturers are often at a disadvantage. That is why I have sponsored the Reciprocal Market Access Act, legislation that will even the international playing field for our manufacturers.

More needs to be done. If we as a nation are serious about growing jobs and keeping our manufacturers strong then there can be no better investment than in advanced manufacturing clusters. The OPI cluster in Rochester is second to none in its depth and breadth and with help will further innovation and create job opportunities for generations to come.

I support the Rochester Regional Optics, Photonics, and Imaging Accelerator Program's application and ask that you give it your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Louise M. Slaughter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Louise" being more prominent and the last name "Slaughter" following in a similar style.

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress