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Media Contacts: Kim Smith Hicks, Zachary Kurz (202) 225-6371

Statement of Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.) Hearing on Building a Network for Manufacturing Innovation

Chairman Bucshon: I am pleased to call to order this morning's hearing to examine the need for a manufacturing innovation network and to review H.R. 2996, the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2013, authored by Representative Tom Reed of New York and Representative Joe Kennedy of Massachusetts.

I am pleased Congressman Reed and Congressman Kennedy are joining us today as witnesses to discuss their proposed legislation.

Nationally, manufacturing supports 17.2 million jobs-with 12 million Americans, or roughly 9 percent of the workforce, employed directly in manufacturing. Manufacturing represents approximately 11 percent of the American economy, and has the greatest multiplier effect of any major sector in the American economy. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, each dollar spent in manufacturing generates an additional \$1.35 in spending.

In Indiana, there are nearly 10,000 manufacturers employing more than half a million workers, which represents one sixth of Indiana's workforce. Not surprisingly, my state ranks first in manufacturing employment and second in manufacturing as a gross state product.

The 8th district of Indiana is home to many of these manufacturers and I have seen the work being done firsthand at manufactures like Berry Plastics, Toyota Motor and Alcoa. Along with the many manufacturers in our district, universities like Vincennes University, the University of Evansville and the University of Southern Indiana offer degrees related to advanced manufacturing and work closely with these entities to develop a talented and well-trained workforce.

H.R. 2996 would establish a \$600 million new program, based on the President's FY13 and FY14 budget request for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI). H.R. 2996 would establish a network for manufacturing innovation building public-private partnerships through Centers for Manufacturing Innovation.

Nearly half of government spending in 2012 was spent automatically on mandatory entitlement programs. Many in Washington D.C. refuse to discuss and enact real reforms that will rein in spending on mandatory spending programs in order to prevent budget cuts to government programs such as research and development on the discretionary side, affecting programs like the proposal in H.R. 2996.

I look forward to hearing from all of our witnesses on their thoughts about the proposed legislation, and I thank them for joining us here today.