

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 31, 2015

COMMITTEES:
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

BUDGET

SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

I am pleased to lend my strong support for the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) application submitted by the Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP).

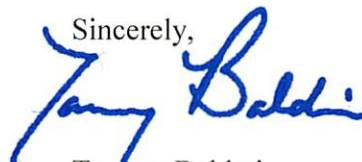
Wisconsin has an innovative and prosperous agricultural and manufacturing tradition which has made our State into a national leader and exporter of quality products. Without question, the agricultural sector is crucial to Wisconsin's economy, especially to the Southwestern and Southcentral regions of the State, contributing to an estimated \$88 billion economic impact in the State annually.

MadREP, in partnership with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and more than ninety economic development professionals within the Madison Region, facilitates and coordinates resources and support to help local businesses and organizations succeed. With an IMCP designation, MadREP will be empowered to assist a fourteen-county region consisting of both urban and rural areas that are front-runners in the state's Agriculture, Food, and Beverage (AFB) Manufacturing Sector. MadREP has identified thirty projects involving seventy-five partners within this AFB Sector that would benefit from greater access to federal funding as well as funding assistance from MadREP, allowing them to grow and enhance their businesses or organizations. MadREP believes an IMCP designation has the potential to assist in filling gaps in this region's supply chain, further enhancing Wisconsin's ability to provide our state, country, and world with outstanding products.

I support efforts that seek to strengthen our state's agricultural and manufacturing sectors and advance our "Made in Wisconsin" economy. Therefore, I strongly urge you to give full and fair consideration to the Madison Region Economic Partnership's application for an IMCP designation. Please keep Todd Crouch informed on the progress of this application, and contact him should you have any questions or concerns. He may be reached in my Madison office at 30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 700 in Madison Wisconsin, 53703, by phone at (608) 264-5338, or by email at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator