

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 11, 2014

Mr. Pat O'Brien, Executive Director
Milwaukee 7
756 N Milwaukee St. #400
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Mr. Rocky Marcoux, Executive Director
Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee
809 N. Broadway
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Letter of Support for the application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration's
Investing in Manufacturing Community Partnership initiative

Dear Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Marcoux:

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for your application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) *Investing in Manufacturing Community Partnership* (IMCP) initiative. We are united in support of making the reinvestment in and reinvigoration of one of our country's bedrock manufacturing communities a federal priority. This bipartisan display of support is underpinned by your effort to break down silos and create a culture of collaboration to strengthening the manufacturing economy in southeastern Wisconsin.

Manufacturing contributes nearly \$50 billion a year to Wisconsin's economy. While Wisconsin has faced issues such as rising costs, increased competition, and globalization, we still rank second in the country in the relative size of our manufacturing sector, which employed more than 450,000 workers as of July 2013. We recognize the significant impact of manufacturing in our state, and most notably in the Milwaukee 7 region. Your application demonstrates that you already have the framework in place to support the resurgence of the region's manufacturing legacy. With federal support, you are well positioned to lead our country's manufacturing renaissance. Therefore, we commend your decision to apply for the IMCP initiative.

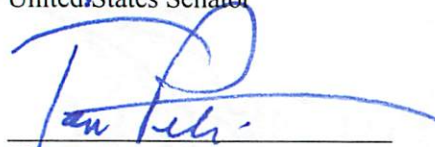
Further enhancing Wisconsin's manufacturing sector requires a strategic collaboration between local, state, and federal authorities who together can sustain the vitality of our state's economy and in turn support businesses, communities, and families. Your application for the IMCP initiative clearly paves a path toward that strategic and deliberate collaboration. We are impressed by the Next Generation Manufacturing Council's focus on analyzing, planning and executing clear objectives to fill in the gaps in workforce development, innovation, technology, and foreign direct investment.

We appreciate the planning and momentum put forth so far in this endeavor, and we are thrilled to support your initiative. We are confident that the EDA should choose the Next Generation Manufacturing Council as one of the 12 federal designees. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices as your project proceeds.

Sincerely,




Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress