

March 1, 2010

The President

The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The global economic crisis poses new challenges to American manufacturing. The U.S. manufacturing sector is the world's largest, but it will not remain so unless our nation acts, and acts now, to reverse its decline. The loss of manufacturing plants and jobs has stifled economic opportunity for middle class families and compromised our ability to compete in the 21st century economy. Indeed, for the last several decades, administrations have passed up critical opportunities to formulate a rational and comprehensive manufacturing policy. Continued apathy will undermine our country's ability to achieve energy independence and place our military readiness at risk.

We are convinced that the recovery and long-term health of our economy depend on a strong, competitive U.S. industrial manufacturing base. Therefore we appreciate your release late last year of "A Framework for Revitalizing American Manufacturing." The framework represents a thoughtful approach to recognizing manufacturing's importance to the middle class, our energy security, and our national defense.

In particular, we agree with many of the basic strategies for reinvigorating U.S. manufacturing as outlined in Section III of the framework. Developing a highly skilled and productive workforce, investing in new and emerging technologies, ensuring stable capital markets, providing support for communities in transition, strengthening infrastructure, improving market access for U.S. exports, and fostering entrepreneurial talent are all significant elements of an integrated policy strategy.

Without an adequate commitment of resources and coordination among every executive branch department, we are afraid that the tenets of this framework may not be

appropriately fulfilled. We would therefore respectfully request additional information about how the Administration is putting these strategies to work, including specific goals, detailed initiatives supporting those goals, and performance measures to help ensure continuous progress.

We recognize that moving forward promptly to support manufacturing companies and workers can speed America's recovery. Historically, the manufacturing sector has led the American economy out of recession. For instance, the auto industry contributed significantly to the economic recovery following the recession of the early 1980s. Today we need a multi-industry strategy to propel job and economic growth, one that deploys federal resources and private-public partnerships to promote emerging manufacturing opportunities.

Today, nothing is more imperative than putting Americans back to work. We believe it will take a coordinated effort to assist America's entrepreneurs, innovators, and workers by advancing policies that enhance U.S. manufacturing, increase U.S. competitiveness and export opportunities, and protect the quality of life for all Americans.

We look forward to working with you to promote U.S. manufacturing on behalf of working families and the manufacturers who employ them, and in support of our nation's continued global leadership.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown

United States Senator

Lindsey Graham

United States Senator

Christopher J. Dodd

United States Senator

Olympia J. Snowe

United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow

United States Senator

Thad Cochran

United States Senator

Jack Reed

United States Senator

Carl Levin

United States Senator

Robert P. Casey

United States Senator

Jeff Bingaman

United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

United States Senator