

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 16, 2023

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

We write urging you to appoint a representative of a labor union apprenticeship program at the next opportunity on the National Advisory Board for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program. Furthermore, we encourage you to reserve at least one seat for labor representatives on the National Advisory Board in perpetuity.

Under current law, the National Advisory Board's ten members must include one community college representative, five small business manufacturers, and two staff of the 51 Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers nationwide. Our "Manufacturing Partnership Improvement Act" (H.R.3854) would require that one of the two currently open seats be reserved for a labor union representative.

Giving union apprenticeship programs representation on the National Advisory Board will ensure that American union workers have a voice in strengthening this important program and building on its past successes. With a seat at the table, union apprenticeships will provide a critical perspective in helping small manufacturers train, hire, and retain a skilled workforce.

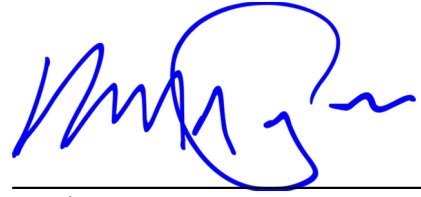
In February 2022, the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment [recommended](#) that union voices be included in all federal advisory committees. We were thrilled to see the Biden Administration's appointments of union representatives to the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee, and the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board over the past year. We now ask that you consider furthering this progress by also appointing a union representative to the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program's National Advisory Board.

Doing so would perfectly align with the Biden Administration's ongoing efforts to incorporate union voices in the federal government's formal advisory discussions. We appreciate your full and fair consideration of this critical matter. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,



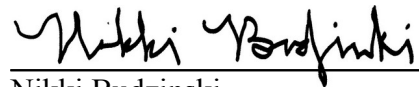
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



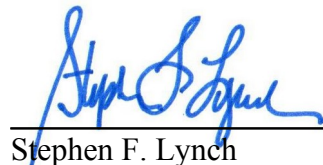
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



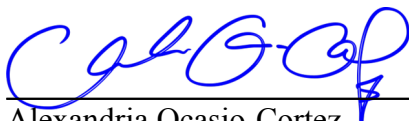
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



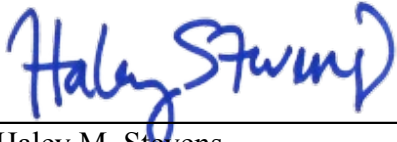
André Carson
Member of Congress



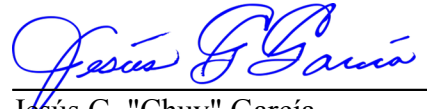
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



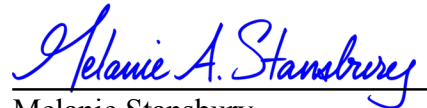
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



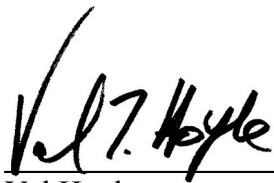
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



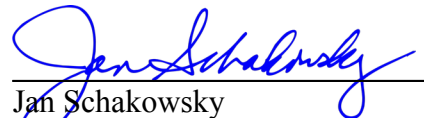
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.G. Davis', positioned above a horizontal line.

Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress