

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2012

Dr. Jennifer Fielding
Air Force Research Laboratory
Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, AFRL/RX
Wright Patterson AFB, OH 45433-7801

RE: Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (AMII) Pilot Program

Dear Dr. Fielding:

As Members of Congress, we are writing to you in strong support of the Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (AMII) Pilot Program proposal submitted by **The National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining (NCDMM)**. This proposal, supported by Carnegie Mellon University, Case Western Reserve University, Youngstown State University, Pennsylvania State University, Lehigh University, University of Akron, and University of Pittsburgh, as well as numerous community colleges, private industry leaders, and economic development organizations, represents a significant step forward in the arena of advanced additive manufacturing.

The institute proposed by NCDMM is closely tied to one of the United States' strongest manufacturing belts and is anchored by industry-leading research, business expertise and workforce training capacity. The so-called "TechBelt" region of western Pennsylvania, northeast Ohio and West Virginia has a rich history in manufacturing and innovation and is home to hundreds of small and medium-sized manufacturing companies that are complimented by some of the best research institutions in the world.

A *TechBelt Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (AMII)* would engage the entire national Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) network, approach manufacturing training from technician through graduate level and build an infrastructure of physical resources and applied research directed by the needs of industry partners.

In short, the proposed AMII structure will serve as a model for future innovation manufacturing institutes. All aspects of its operation will be focused on enabling participating companies to benefit from leveraged collaborative applied research and the development of critical support capabilities in workforce and supplier development, while creating the optimal environment and flexible intellectual property arrangements for rapid deployment and commercial development.

Once again, we offer our strong support for NCDMM's *TechBelt Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute* proposal. Please contact any of our offices with questions or for further details.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator (OH)



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator (PA)



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress (OH-17)



Mark Critz
Member of Congress (PA-12)



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress (OH-18)



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress (PA-18)



Tim Holden
Member of Congress (PA-17)



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress (OH-11)



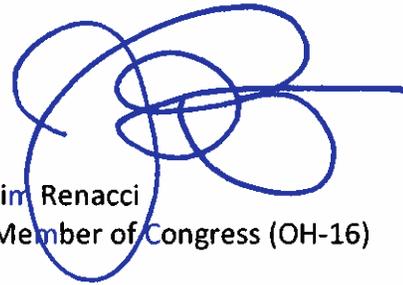
Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress (PA-5)



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress (OH-9)



Steve LaTourette
Member of Congress (OH-14)



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress (OH-16)



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress (OH-13)



Jason Altmire
Member of Congress (PA-4)



Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress (PA-6)



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress (OH-6)



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress (PA-14)



Charles Dent
Member of Congress (PA-15)