

THE
NEW ENGLAND
COUNCIL

June 5, 2014

The Honorable Tom Reed
1504 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy III
1218 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reed and Congressman Kennedy,

On behalf of the New England Council, I am writing to express support for the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation, or RAMI, Act (H.R. 2996). The New England Council is a non-partisan alliance of businesses, academic and health institutions, and public and private organizations throughout New England formed to promote economic growth and a high quality of life in the New England region. The Council's mission is to identify and support federal public policies and articulate the voice of its membership regionally and nationally on important issues facing New England.

New England has been hard hit in recent decades by manufacturing job losses. In fact, over the last three decades, manufacturing as a percentage of overall employment has dropped from 22.5% to 7.4% across the region. That said, there is reason for optimism on the horizon. The New England Economic Partnership (NEEP) has estimated an increase of 1.3% in manufacturing employment from 2012 through 2016. Moving forward, as NEEP's Spring 2013 New England Economic Outlook noted, "to grow manufacturing (and exceed the NEEP forecasts) will require linking manufacturing more strongly to research and development strengths in the region, and ensuring an appropriately skilled work force for advanced manufacturing across the region."

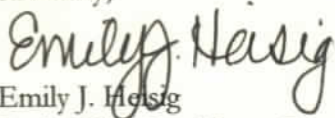
The RAMI Act is exactly the kind of forward-thinking solution our economy needs to promote these critical goals. By establishing of a nationwide network of CMIs, industry, nonprofits, and academia will have an effective and responsive research infrastructure for a "teaching factory" that allows them to solve relevant problem related to advanced manufacturing. These CMIs would conduct research and development, conceptualization, and prototyping as well as work on time, cost, and risk reduction involving the commercial application of technologies and processes. And one important outcome of the CMIs would be the training of the nation's future advanced manufacturing workforce.

Like many across our nation, The New England Council see advanced manufacturing as a driving force for job creation and economic growth for years to come, and has long-supported efforts to enhance that position. In fact, the Council partnered with Deloitte, one of our members, to release a report on the potential for growth in the advanced manufacturing sector for our region. As the report notes, "Through a more focused collaboration of industry, government, and education,

advanced manufacturing can be enhanced and expanded.” The manufacturing hubs established through this legislation have the potential to fulfill that goal. With its first class workforce, excellent academic credentials, and sophisticated industry, New England has much to gain by actions that promote advanced manufacturing and efforts to secure one of these centers in the region.

Thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation. We wholeheartedly support all efforts to pass the legislation through both the House and the Senate and get it to the president’s desk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily J. Heisig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily J. Heisig
Senior Vice President, Communications & Federal Affairs