

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Conferees,

As you prepare for a conference with the Senate on S. 2012, we respectfully request that you support and include provisions expanding the capacity of community and technical colleges to train students in the energy and advanced manufacturing sectors.

America depends on a well-trained workforce to meet the demands of our modern energy and manufacturing industries. Manufacturing is responsible for roughly 40 percent of economic output and employment, and two-thirds of private sector research and development. The Advanced Manufacturing Partnership Working Group (AMPWG) has identified three priority goals associated with growth in advanced manufacturing: (1) enable innovation; (2) secure the talent pipeline; and (3) improve the business climate. AMPWG specifically called for investment in community college-based workforce training to meet the needs of manufacturing industry.

While there are differences among the bills passed in the Senate and House, they share a commitment to expanding this workforce. The Senate-passed version, for instance, includes a grant program prioritizing community and technical college workforce training *Centers of Excellence*, and it authorizes new areas of focus for the Department of Energy involving the advanced manufacturing industry. This provision and others within the House amendment that expand training and development programs will elevate our students and our economy.

Thank you for your consideration of community and technical college advanced manufacturing and energy programs during the upcoming conference. We hope to see such provisions in final legislation and appreciate your work to this end.

Sincerely,



Senator Richard Blumenthal



Senator Christopher Murphy


Representative Rosa DeLauro


Representative John Larson


Representative Joe Courtney


Representative Jim Himes


Representative Elizabeth Esty

CC:
All Conferees