



# The American Manufacturing Communities Collaborative

Statement on USICA\* Vote in the Senate, Monday March 28, 2022

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The American Manufacturing Communities Collaborative, an organization representing regional manufacturing communities across the country, is issuing this statement to highlight the Senate's call for votes to advance the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act into a conference with the House-passed America COMPETES Act.

Make no mistake, U.S. manufacturing is back. Factories have added over 1.2 million jobs since April 2020, as factories have produced essential goods from foodstuffs to medicines as the economy has rebounded from the pandemic. Yet, our economy and national security remain far too vulnerable from an industrial sector that has 8 percent fewer factories than at the start of the 21st century. Whether it was insufficient materials to make masks during the pandemic, or shortages of semiconductors to produce new cars, Americans have woken up to the need to rebuild manufacturing.

As regional and state economic development leaders, the members of AMCC have long recognized the importance of manufacturing as a source of family sustaining jobs and economic vitality. We focus on the development of manufacturing ecosystems, the conditions for manufacturing success. Up until now, American investments in these shared resources, like innovation research, small business support and workforce preparation, pale in comparison to our international competitors like China, Germany and Japan.

USICA will provide resources to communities to help them develop the skilled workers, sources of capital, and small business support programs needed to rebuild manufacturing in the United States and to out-compete China. Most importantly, USICA authorizes

- \$10 billion for a new Regional Technology Hub Program, whose goal is to bring technology and advanced manufacturing development to regions that have not benefited historically. AMCC and manufacturing community leaders across the country know the importance of this program's focus on strategic economic development planning, technology and workforce development across multiple stakeholders.
- \$2.4 billion in grants to greatly expand the activities of Manufacturing Extension Partnership programs in every state to assist small manufacturers with cybersecurity, technology adoption, workforce training and supply chain resiliency.
- \$1.2 billion in funding to expand the network of Manufacturing USA institutes that are

developing cutting edge applied manufacturing technologies from lightweight steel to advanced fabrics into additional technologies and locations.

American manufacturing relies on strong regional economies, and these regional activities will bolster other critical investments in the bill:

- The \$52 billion CHIPS act which would incentive the production of semiconductors in the United States and support research & development.
- A new supply chain resilience program at the Department of Commerce to monitor all types of critical supply chain production (not just computer chips) in the United States, and make investments to shore up weaknesses.
- A new National Science Foundation Directorate for Technology and Innovation to mobilizing America's universities into the critical field of applied technology research & technology commercialization
- Stronger Buy America provisions that will cover the purchases of manufactured construction materials (alongside iron and steel) in federally funded projects, and bolster efforts by the Office of Management and Budget to tighten loopholes in these rules.

Once the Senate votes to move the bill forward to conference with the House, important work remains to bring together the best of both versions and deliver a final version to the President's desk. Importantly, AMCC believes that we cannot meet the potential of American manufacturing unless we mobilize talent and innovation from every corner of the nation. A final version can also benefit from provisions in the America COMPETES Act that would increase the capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (and other minority serving institutions) in technology research through both the Regional Technology Hub Program and through a capacity building program at the National Science Foundation.

Many believe that as the war in Ukraine exposes new threats to our supply chains, now is the best chance for this important legislation to become law before Washington gets swept up into the run-up to the midterm elections. Major companies like Intel have already promised additional job investments if USICA is enacted. Business and government leaders across the country can see that its passage now is essential and will mark the beginning of a powerful American manufacturing resurgence for years and decades to come.

[\\* Key Portions of USICA like the Tech Hub program, were in the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act signed into law on August 9, 2022](#)