

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

As Members of Minnesota's Congressional Delegation, we write with concern that the termination of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers (MEPs) cooperative agreement will extend to Enterprise Minnesota when they apply for their contractual renewals later this year. This week, Partnership Centers in ten different states were notified that the Department of Commerce will not be renewing their MEP cooperative agreement awards.

Small and medium-sized manufacturing companies throughout the United State rely on programs like MEP to access some 1,200 technical experts that help them compete, grow, and provide good paying jobs in every state. By building public/private partnerships across the nation with affiliates such as Enterprise Minnesota, MEP helps give manufacturers much needed expertise at rates they otherwise could not afford. Minnesota companies in each of our Congressional Districts will lose access to services provided by these partnerships if these contracts are not renewed. These recent successful partnerships with Enterprise Minnesota have included Midwest Metal Products in Winona, SNX Precision in Sauk Rapids, Wyoming Machine in Stacy, CARDSource in Eagan, Voyager Industries in Brandon, Seacole Specialty Chemical in Plymouth, Enova Illumination in Minneapolis, and HED Cycling Products in Saint Paul.

The MEP National Network delivers a high return on investment to taxpayers. For every one dollar of federal investment in FY 2023, the MEP National Network generated \$24.60 in new sales growth. For Enterprise Minnesota, the return on investment speaks for itself. They have reduced client costs by over \$131 million, added or retained over 6,600 jobs, and actively supports over 500 manufacturing clients.

Understanding the broad economic impact of these agreements, we ask that the administration continue to support MEP cooperative agreements and renew Enterprise Minnesota's contracts. We ask that you consider the valuable investment Enterprise Minnesota and all MEPs provide for small and medium-sized manufacturing companies throughout Minnesota and the country.

Sincerely,



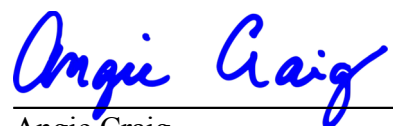
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



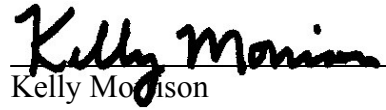
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress