

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 9, 2011

Dr. Patrick D. Gallagher
Director
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 1000
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1000

Dear Director Gallagher:

I write to you today concerning the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Supplier Scouting initiative. I understand that MEP is looking for opportunities to connect government agencies that have Buy American requirements with domestic manufacturers who produce products they need. I commend MEP for this effort and would like to encourage these connections in Pennsylvania.

Manufacturing is critical to job creation in Pennsylvania and the sector remains the Commonwealth's largest source of good paying jobs. I believe every effort, including directing government procurement, should be aimed at growing this sector in Pennsylvania and beyond. Capitalizing on the Supplier Scouting initiative will require Pennsylvania's seven MEP centers to work within their current networks while also branching out to identify new opportunities for engagement. I encourage the national MEP office and its Pennsylvania subsidiaries to reach out to the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry to work in concert to ensure Pennsylvania's many manufacturers are given every opportunity to benefit from government projects.

Thank you for your efforts to direct business to domestic manufacturers.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator