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Senior Vice President
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October 29, 2013

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
United States of House of Representatives
308 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Guthrie:

On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), thank you for your outstanding leadership on issues to make manufacturing more competitive in the United States. Your commitment to advancing commonsense solutions to the challenges facing the manufacturing community through comprehensive manufacturing legislation is very much appreciated.

As you are aware, manufacturers face a 20 percent cost disadvantage when compared to our major international trading partners, and that figure does not include labor costs. This unfortunate reality is one we have imposed on ourselves and is driven by tort, energy, tax and regulatory policies. While we are currently experiencing an energy cost advantage, it is not nearly enough to overcome all of the other cost burdens imposed on manufacturers by Washington. Additionally, manufacturers face tremendous challenges in finding qualified workers to fill open positions because of a lack of necessary skills.

The Reducing Employer Burdens, Unleashing Innovation, and Labor Development (REBUILD) Act of 2013 outlines a blueprint for competitiveness in the areas of energy, tax, trade, healthcare, regulatory and workforce policy that could create an environment to allow manufacturers to succeed and grow the economy. With pro-growth policies such as these we can lower the 20 percent cost disadvantage and make our nation a more competitive place to do business and create jobs.

Manufacturing, with the highest multiplier effect of any other sector is poised to transform our economy still struggling to recover from the 2.3 million jobs lost during the recession of 2008 and 2009. While at least 500,000 jobs have since been created, we still have a long road to travel. A growth agenda, that includes policies such as those within the REBUILD Act, is critical to create an environment which encourages job growth.

Again, thank you for your leadership. We look forward to continuing to work together to advance the interests of manufacturers in America and their employees.

Sincerely,

