COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2009

HEARINGS

BEFORE A

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, West Virginia, *Chairman*

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NOTE: Under Committee Rules, Mr. Obey, as Chairman of the Full Committee, and Mr. Lewis, as Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee, are authorized to sit as Members of all Subcommittees.

JOHN BLAZEY, MARJORIE DUSKE, ADRIENNE SIMONSON, TRACEY LATURNER, and DIANA SIMPSON
Subcommittee Staff

PART 8

STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Printed for the use of the Committee on Appropriations

PART 8—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2009

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(II)

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2009

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

TESTIMONY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

NICS IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007

WITNESS

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. MOLLOHAN. The hearing will come to order. And for our first witness we are pleased to welcome our colleague Carolyn McCarthy. Carolyn, welcome to the hearing today.

Ms. MCCARTHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And we welcome your comments on issues related to our bill.

Ms. MCCARTHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank Mr. Mollohan and Ranking Member, and members of the Commerce. I appreciate your allowing me to testify today in support of including full funding in the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill under the Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services to implement H.R. 2640, the NICS Improvement Amendment Act of 2007, Public Law 110–180. H.R. 2640 was signed into law on January 8 after having passed both the House and the Senate unanimously. I know the budget is tight. I have sat down with both of you and I am working on hopefully trying to get more money for this Committee so that we can get the funding to go through.

But NICS is a national database system that flags individuals precluded under current law from purchasing and possessing firearms. Millions of criminal records are currently missing from the database that makes up the NICS due to funding restrictions and technology issues at the state level. Many states have not automated individuals' records concerning mental illness, restraining orders, or misdemeanor convictions for domestic violence. Simply put, NICS must be updated on the state level so that it can properly function on the federal level. This point is underscored by the circumstances surrounding the shootings at Virginia Tech in April of last year. The shooter in the Virginia Tech massacre was prohibited from legally purchasing a firearm. Unfortunately, flaws in the

NICS system allowed his record to slip through the cracks and he was able to purchase two handguns and use them to brutally murder thirty-two individuals. He passed the Brady background check because NICS did not have the necessary information.

Sadly, the same scenario happens almost every day. The NICS Improvement Amendment Act requires all states to provide NICS with the relevant records needed to conduct effective background checks. It is the state's responsibility to ensure this information is current and accurate. They must update their records to ensure violent criminals do not have access to firearms and then they must share the information with NICS. However, I recognize many states' budgets are overburdened with the cost. This law provides grants to states to update their records and provide those records to NICS. States will receive the funds they need to ensure relevant records are up to date.

The NICS Improvement Amendment Act of 2007 corrects the primary four flaws. It will prevent thousands of individuals precluded from purchasing firearms from doing so—approximately 916,000 individuals who purchased guns, a firearm, for failing a background check between November 30, 1998 when NICS began operating and December 31, 2004. During the same period nearly 49 million Brady background checks were processed through the NICS system. These numbers prove that the NICS does and will work. But, however, since NICS is only as good as the information that is put into it, we need to make sure that the data coming from the states is correct. We must make sure that criminals or anyone that is not supposed to buy a gun is refrained from buying a firearm.

It has been estimated that approximately 40 million records are missing from the various NICS systems right now. By dividing the funding we will move one step closer to bringing the records of millions of barred individuals to the NICS system. This law imposes no new restrictions on gun owners and does not infringe on the Second Amendment rights of law abiding citizens. It simply makes improvements to a program that saves lives.

To this Committee I sent, 107 members of our colleagues signed a letter to your Subcommittee supporting this request. I also have submitted letters of support for full funding from the NRA, Brady Campaign, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, and a number of towns and cities. I respectfully request that you include $187.5 million in the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science Bill under the Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Service in order to fully fund the NICS system.

On another matter, Mr. Chairman, I want to express my continued strong opposition to the provision in the bill known as the Tiahrt Amendment. I support fully eliminating the Tiahrt Amendment language, and I appreciate what you did on making the language a little bit better. Short of this I support efforts to continue to improve the language so that law enforcement can have the tools it needs to fully investigate and prosecute crimes.

I would also like to say that with this particular bill we brought all parties together to work on this, whether it was the NRA, whether it was the Bradies. It is something that could have possibly prevented the tragedy at Virginia Tech. Mr. Cho, who did the shooting, unfortunately had been adjudicated to be mentally ill and

yet the system did not work, it failed. The reason this Bill even came into place was going back in 2002 I had the same incident in my district, and that is when the Bill came together. It did pass here in the House in 2002. And even though I had support in the Senate side it never came up through the Senate until after the shooting at Virginia Tech. So I am more than willing to answer any questions that you might have.

[Testimony of Representative Carolyn McCarthy.]

Testimony before the House Appropriations CJS Subcommittee
Rep. Carolyn McCarthy
4/2/08

- Thank you Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and Members of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee.

- I appreciate your allowing me to testify today in support of including full funding in the Fiscal Year 2009 Commerce Justice Science Appropriations bill under the Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services to implement H.R. 2640, the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, Public Law Number 110-180.

- H.R. 2640 was signed into law on January 8, 2008, after having passed both the House and Senate unanimously.

- I know the budget is tight, Mr. Chairman, but fully funding this program is so important because currently the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, is deeply flawed.

- NICS is a national database system that flags individuals precluded under current law from purchasing and possessing firearms.

- MILLIONS of criminal records are currently missing from the databases that make up NICS due to funding restrictions and technology issues at the state level.

- Many states have not automated individuals' records concerning mental illness, restraining orders, or misdemeanor convictions for domestic violence.

- Simply put, NICS must be updated on the state level so that it can properly function on the federal level.

- This point is underscored by the circumstances surrounding the shootings at Virginia Tech in April of last year.

The shooter in the Virginia Tech massacre was prohibited from legally purchasing a firearm.

- Unfortunately, flaws in the NICS system allowed his record to slip through the cracks and he was able to purchase two handguns, and used them to brutally murder THIRTY TWO individuals.

- He passed a Brady background check because NICS did not have the necessary information.

- Sadly, this same scenario happens every day.

- The NICS Improvement Amendments Act requires all states to provide NICS with the relevant records needed to conduct effective background checks.

- It is the state's responsibility to ensure this information is current and accurate. They must update their records to ensure violent criminals do not have access to firearms. And then, they must share the information with NICS.

- However, I recognize many state budgets are already overburdened.

- This law provides grants to states to update their records and provide those records to NICS.

- States will receive the funds they need to make sure relevant records are up-to-date.

- The NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 corrects the primary flaw and will prevent thousands of individuals precluded from purchasing firearms from doing so.

- Approximately NINE-HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN THOUSAND individuals were precluded from purchasing a firearm for failing a background check between November 30, 1998, when NICS began operating, and December 31, 2004.

During this same period, nearly FORTY NINE MILLION Brady background checks were processed through NICS.

- These numbers prove that NICS works and will continue to work. However, since NICS is only as good as the information it contains, we must ensure that NICS has the most up-to-date records to stop criminals, those adjudicated as mentally ill, and those under a restraining order from purchasing firearms.

- It has been estimated that approximately 40 million records are missing from the various databases that make up NICS.

- By providing this funding, we will move one step closer to bringing the records of millions of barred individuals into NICS.

- This law imposes no new restrictions on gun owners and does not infringe on the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. It simply makes improvements to a program that saves lives.

- 107 Members of Congress signed a letter to your Subcommittee supporting this request. I have also submitted letters of support for full funding from the NRA, Brady Campaign, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, and a number of towns and cities.

- I respectfully request that you include $187.5 million in the Fiscal Year 2009 Commerce Justice Science bill under the Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services in order to fully fund the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007.

- On another matter, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to express my continued, strong opposition to the provision in the bill known as the "Tiahrt Amendment". I support fully eliminating the Tiahrt Amendment language. Short of this, I support efforts to continue to improve the language so that law enforcement can have the tools it needs to fully investigate and prosecute gun crimes.

- Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, let me compliment the gentle lady for her leadership on this issue. It has always been insightful as she has brought a very instructive attitude to the issue. She has brought people together with regard to the issue generally. And her comments here today are taken very seriously. I only have one question. Aside from the funding, and with regard to getting the mental illness records of folks into these systems, is that something you need authorization to do?

Ms. MCCARTHY. Not really, mainly because once someone is adjudicated, and we are only dealing with those who have been adjudicated, not someone that has treatment under a doctor, or, you know, even visiting a psychiatrist, anything like that. So the Privacy Act is protected. Also in the legislation the Attorney General can work with the states to make sure that all privacy issues. But once you are adjudicated that is a public record now. So, again, it is out there.

But again, just a little other thing too, we know that mental illness over time can be cured, depending on what that person is suffering from. There is a process, also, in the bill to allow that person to reverse the process and to legally buy a gun if deemed so by the courts that adjudicated the person to be mentally ill.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. You are talking about pending legislation?

Ms. MCCARTHY. No, no, it is in this legislation.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I would like to echo the Chairman's sentiments here, a fantastic and certainly wonderful advocate.

Ms. MCCARTHY. Thank you, sir.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Carolyn.

Ms. MCCARTHY. Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you. The Committee welcomes all the outside witnesses here today and we want you to know that your insight and comments are really taken seriously by the Committee. All your testimony will be reviewed by the staffs and the Members. So we thank you for being here today. There are a lot of witnesses, a lot of testimony, and we are going to limit testimony to five minutes for each witness. And I know you can understand that. So there will probably be scant questions but please do not take that as any kind of disinterest by the Committee because outside witnesses, and their comments, are very important as we mark up this bill.

So our next witness is Jeffrey W. Gault, with the National Veterans Business Development Corporation. Mr. Gault, welcome to the hearing. We appreciate the purposes of your organization, and we appreciate its mission. And we look forward to hearing your testimony and working with you to help you better realize fulfillment of the purposes and the mission that your organization exists to perform. Welcome to the hearing.

Mr. GAULT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And your written statement, as with all witnesses, will be made a part of the record. You probably cannot read it all in five minutes so you might want to summarize it. I am not telling you how to present it but we are going to stick within these time limits.

Mr. GAULT. We will stay within your time limits.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Okay, thank you, Mr. Gault.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

THE VETERANS CORPORATION

WITNESS

JEFFREY W. GAULT, CHAIRMAN, THE VETERANS CORPORATION

Mr. GAULT. Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, members of the Subcommittee, my name is Jeff Gault. The President appointed me to the Board of Directors of The Veterans Corporation September of '06. I am a soldier. I served over thirty years in uniform. I served in Operation Desert Storm, Desert Shield, along with one other Middle East deployment. It is my honor to serve as the Board Chairman of an organization that assists veterans who want to start or grow their own businesses.

I am here today as a volunteer on behalf of TVC to request $3.2 million for TVC programs and services in fiscal year 2009. I would like to submit a copy of my written statement for the record, also our annual report and our strategic plan for the record.

We convene at an urgent time in American history. We are a nation at war. The fact is that our national landscape has changed since 1999 when Public Law 106–50 was enacted. We now have thousands of veterans who have returned home to their loved ones and families, many of whom are looking for jobs or to start or grow their own business. The mission of TVC is to create more prosperous communities and a stronger national economy by fostering business operations for veterans and service disabled veterans.

Mr. Chairman, let me take a moment to review the fiscal year 2006 budget execution by TVC in which we spent 71 cents of every dollar on programs and services for veterans, only 19 cents on G and A, and less than 10 cents on fundraising. TVC provides veterans, service disabled veterans, members of the Guard and Reserve, and their family members with the tools and resources to be successful entrepreneurs with an emphasis on access to capital and surety bonding. Two recent examples whom TVC has assisted this past year include Michigan Army National Guard Lieutenant Trinity Casola and Army Sergeant First Class Joe Santiago.

As a member of the Army National Guard, Lieutenant Casola is used to being a man on a mission. His new mission is lending his entrepreneurial spirit to the rebirth of New Orleans. On November 26, 2007 he threw a grand opening part at Maya's Restaurant on Magazine Street in New Orleans. But he is no ordinary restauranteur. Just eight short months ago he was on active duty in Iraq. With the help of TVC he was able to build a restaurant from halfway across the world, all due to TVC's virtual counseling, phone support, and collaborative programs.

Another example is November 13, 2007, a triumphant day in the life of a soldier and his family. For more than four years the Santiago family had been coping with the traumatic brain injury that Joe Santiago suffered in Iraq. On the thirteenth of November they celebrated the grand opening of their Nestle Toll House Café by Chip franchise, an accomplishment that seemed impossible just

a few years ago. TVC began working with Joe when he and his wife were unable to secure a loan to open their business. TVC's access to capital arm, the National Economic Opportunity Fund of Jim Mingey, began negotiating directly with bank officers and within a month he had his loan approved and was preparing for his grand opening. Ladies and gentlemen, we are truly doing good things to help the people who need our assistance.

Mr. Chairman, let me direct a couple of concerns of our critics. TVC agrees that we have many more veterans that we need to reach. But look at who we have reached with our limited dollars that we have across our nation. Focusing all of our funds into three centers will not assist us in reaching the majority of the veterans that we need to reach. TVC has not given up or backed off on any programs or outreach. Our national office maintains face to face, phone counseling, online education, seminars, workshops, and a complete web outreach in fifty states. We also staff an office at Walter Reed Hospital to counsel recovering servicemembers. Our center outreach has moved from three 501(c)(3) organizations to nine organizations in eight states.

Our latest generation of Iraq/Afghanistan veterans is clamoring for online services. Younger veterans are tech savvy and they want materials electronically at their fingertips. Trinity Casola found TVC while serving on active duty in Iraq. We are leading the way and meeting the needs of these veterans.

Members of the Subcommittee, with $3 to $6 million a year TVC can serve as a catalyst, a facilitator, a clearinghouse, and run a national set of programs and services helping veterans in all fifty states. With sufficient funding we can operate 21st century, online and distance learning programs to serve veterans everywhere. No one else is doing this.

TVC is willing to work with all members of Congress and all stakeholders to forge partnerships to ensure that our veterans are given all the help that they need and deserve. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the House of Representatives, especially you, Chairman Mollohan, and you, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and your staffs, for leading the fight in the House Appropriations Committee last summer to fully fund TVC at $2.5 million. Thank you and I would be happy to take any of your questions.

[Testimony of Jeffrey W. Gault, Chairman, Board of Directors, National Veterans Business Development Corporation.]

Statement of

Jeffrey W. Gault
Chairman, Board of Directors
National Veterans Business Development Corporation

Before the

Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC

April 2, 2008

The Veterans Corporation • 1625 K Street, NW, Suite 750 • Washington, DC 20006
Phone: 202-449-9835 • Toll Free: 866-283-8267 • Fax: 202-223-0608
The National Veterans Business Development Corporation

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and members of the Subcommittee, I am here today on behalf of The Veterans Corporation (TVC) to request $3.2 million for TVC programs and services in FY '09. We have attached an appropriation schedule for the next five years. I would also like to submit our 2007 Annual Report and our five year Strategic Plan for the record.

My name is Jeff Gault, and President Bush appointed me to the Board of Directors of TVC in September 2006. I am a graduate of West Point; I served in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, along with two other Middle East deployments. And it is my honor to serve as the Board Chairman of an organization that assists Veterans who want to start or grow a business.

We convene at an urgent time in American history. Recently, the American death toll in Iraq reached over 4,000. While these men and women gave the ultimate sacrifice, there are tens of thousands more who have endured physical and mental injuries as a result of their service to this country. In fact, in Iraq more than 29,000 servicemen have been injured – more than 13,000 of whom were unable to return to duty. Also in Afghanistan, more than 1,000 men and women were unable to return to duty as a result of injuries sustained in combat.

The fact is our national landscape has changed since 1999, and we now have thousands of veterans who have returned home to their loved ones and family. Many of whom are looking for jobs and or preparing to start or grow their own business. What's more, is that these men and women have acquired a unique set of skills from their time in service, and maintain the motivation, the leadership, and the drive to be successful business owners. Time is short and the need is great, and, Mr. Chairman, I ask you to devote more resources to assist our returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families.

I know TVC has detractors. My plan today is to share the good work that TVC has accomplished with the hope that Veteran advocates of all stripes can agree that devoting our collective time and resources to assisting our returning Veterans and their families, is a duty we must all honor. I will also let you know what we believe are the major criticisms and how we are addressing those and or in fact how TVC is actually providing services some believe we are not currently providing.

The mission of TVC is to create more prosperous communities and a stronger national economy by fostering business opportunities for Veterans and Service-Disabled Veterans. We provide direct program services while acting as an entrepreneurial catalyst for Veterans, Service-Disabled Veterans, and members of the Armed Forces, especially those service members who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and transitioning from military service into the business community.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, TVC is a Federally-chartered 501(c)(3) organization that was created by Public Law 106-50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, which recognized that America "has done too little to assist Veterans...in playing a greater role in the economy of the United States".

The Corporation is charged with creating and enhancing entrepreneurial business opportunities for Veterans, including Service-Disabled Veterans. The Board of Directors is appointed by the President of the United States and provides governance over TVC. And as a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization, TVC has the ability to do things that government agencies cannot, will not, or should not do.

As I stated upfront – our national landscape has changed. And it's time we think harder about the sacrifice made by so many Americans. The medical community has made tremendous advancements – especially in the area of prosthetics. And we are thankful that today so many of our men and women are able to return home to their families after suffering what, in the past, would have been life-threatening injuries. However, Mr. Chairman, we must not overlook the challenges our veterans face in transitioning back from military life. At the TVC, we believe we have a duty to address the immediate needs of our servicemen and women returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

In FY'07 TVC funded three centers: Flint, Michigan; St. Louis, Missouri; and Boston, Massachusetts. Yet as we all know, our Veterans live all across this great nation. With so many servicemen and women in need of assistance, TVC needs to help Veterans in all fifty states. At the beginning of FY'08 TVC implemented a competitive grants program. This program, announced in the summer of 2006 was designed to get funding out to more states and organizations that can and will assist Veterans who want to start or grow a business. TVC now staffs a center at Walter Reed Medical Center here in Washington, DC. TVC's National Headquarters office continues as it has in the last two years to assist Veterans in all fifty states and for that matter service members currently stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. TVC on a competitive basis in FY'8 has funded nine projects in eight states. Had the Senate agreed to fund TVC at the House approved level in FY'08 of $2.5 million, TVC could have funded many more projects across the United States.

You still might be wondering why Congress should increase funding for the TVC when the Small Business Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs oversee similar programs to help our servicemen transition from military life to civilian life. The fact is, while the SBA and DVA do a tremendous amount for our military and their families, there is still more to be done. And, unlike these other agencies, helping members of our armed forces launch or expand their own business is the *sole* purpose of the TVC.

Mr. Chairman, let me take a moment to review the FY '07 budget, in which the TVC spent 71 cents of every dollar on programs and services, 19 cents on G & A, and less than 10 cents on fundraising.

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FY 2007

PROGRAMS	**$1,762,901.00**	**71.1%**
G&A	**$ 475,311.00**	**19.20%**
FUNDRAISING	**$ 240,494.00**	**9.70%**

TVC provides Veterans, Service-Disabled Veterans, members of the Guard and Reserve, and their family members with the tools and resources they need to be successful entrepreneurs with an emphasis on:

- **Access to Capital** – From start-up businesses to established businesses looking to expand, TVC understands that financing is an essential need for any business owner. In fact, it is the number one question we receive from our members. That is why TVC has partnered with the National Economic Opportunity Fund (NEOF) to provide Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran Entrepreneurs with access to capital and the financial support they need to succeed in business. TVC and NEOF are working with multiple lending partners to provide $5,000 to $300,000 loans as low as 0% over prime and larger loans of up to $3,000,000. With TVC's program, Veterans receive financing options above those offered by SBA's 7A and 524 programs.
- **Surety Bonding** – Last year, the value of construction put into place, excluding single family residential construction, was about $550 billion. For Veteran contractors to secure some of that work, especially in the public sector, they must be surety bonded. Through TVC's partnership with the Surety and Fidelity Association of America (SFAA), both current and emerging Veteran contractors and subcontractors are provided with the education and training they need to do business with the government. TVC members can become experts in government contracting and surety bonding with the nation's only free, fully mentored surety bonding program for Veterans. SBA's bonding cap is set at $2 million, with the average SBA backed bond at $245k, not enough for Veterans and Service-Disabled owned companies to successfully compete for federal contracts. TVC's program has no caps, and is a 50 state program.

In Fiscal Year 2007, our national hub office has facilitated:

- 2,227 Veteran and Service Disabled Veteran company matchmaking interview sessions during Business Matchmaking events held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Atlanta, GA; Upper Marlboro, MD; Washington, DC and Chicago, IL.
- $391,000 in funding to Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran owned businesses with another $39 million in the pipeline.
- $6.7 million in new surety bonds.

- Nearly one thousand workshops and counseling sessions including, but not limited to, how to write a business plan and assistance with financing and surety bonding.

We have included three charts detailing services provided by the TVC National Headquarters staff.

Mr. Chairman, web traffic through TVC's Virtual Veteran Business Resource Center (veteranscorp.org) in FY 2007 includes:

- 3,140,511 hits
- 427,048 page views
- 277,574 unique visits lasting an average of 3:07
- 33,095 downloads of materials
- 14,124 visitors to the ConnectVets Business forum, a Veteran peer-to-peer online discussion board where Veterans can share business information with each other

Mr. Chairman, program dollars spent by TVC in FY 2007 by state are as follows:

CA	18k	CADVB/ASDV
GA	10k	Business Matchmaking - Atlanta
IL	10k	Business Matchmaking - Chicago
MA (Boston VBRC)	180k	
MI (Flint VBRC)	140k	
MO (St. Louis VBRC)	150k	
VA/WV	6k	www.vetbiznetwork.net
Total	514k	

TVC Headquarter Hub Activity Report (Oct 1, 2006 – Sep 30, 2007)
Outreach and Education:

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	YTD total
Kessler/NEC applications downloaded	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	74	80	192	157	116	425
Kessler/NEC applications	-	-	-	-	-	17	6	5	11	11	13	5	68

submitted													
Events with TVC presentation	1	1	1	4	4	1	3	4	4	2	3	1	29
Number of veterans attendees/ advocates	50	300	359	100	670	700	20	230	1030	1336	775	70	5631
Number of online classes provided	1	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	44	41	14	109
Average # of visitors to ConnectsVets per month (estimated)	-	-	-	-	-	2046	1980	2046	1980	2046	2046	2046	14,124
ConnectVets/forum members	-	-	-	-	-	67	30	23	30	30	33	19	232
Virtual workshops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	136	340	67	537
General Counseling	36	25	20	45	30	50	38	20	35	30	41	38	408

Access to Bonding: (TVC National Headquarters activity)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	YTD total
Questionnaire downloaded	-	-	-	-	133	117	129	97	166	219	178	114	1153
Questionnaire submitted	-	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	8	4	3	26
Number of new bonds	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Total amount of new bonds	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$800k	$3 mil.	0	$2.9 mil.	$6.7 mil.

Access to Capital: **(TVC National Headquarters activity)**

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	YTD total
Questionnaire downloaded	-	-	-	-	802	812	634	486	967	874	568	446	4575
Questionnaire submitted	5	6	5	15	7	27	27	28	35	30	10	21	216

General Financial Counseling	40	40	25	30	18	12	12	6	6	6	7	7	209
NEOF Referrals	1	2	2	6	0	8	10	5	4	20	7	8	Referrals: 73 Total Dollars: $39 M
One-on-one mentoring	7	8	7	15	18	40	53	54	60	58	35	44	399
Number of loans facilitated	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	4
Funding Facilitated	0	0	0	0	$15k	0	$36k	0	0	$100k	$240k	0	$391k
Number of loans denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2

I have included in my testimony the reports from the three separately incorporated 501(c)(3) Veteran Business Resource Centers that TVC funded in FY'07.

Activity	1st Q.	2nd Q.	3rd Q.	4th Q.	Flint TOTAL	1st Q.	2nd Q.	3rd Q.	4th Q.	Boston TOTAL	1st Q.	2nd Q.	3rd Q.	4th Q.	St. Louis TOTAL
New Starts	1	0	0	3	4	1	6 (audited)	4	0	11	13	27 (refused to provide supporting evidence)	2	13	55
Funding Facilitated	0	0	0	$250k	$250k	0	0	0	0	0	$240K	$157k	$54k	176K	$627k
Teamings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	2	1	0	1	4
Contracts Facilitated	12 / $9.15	3 / $16k	5 / $267k	0	20 contracts $9.45 million	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education Course Students (continuing classes)	0	0	0	0	0 Veterans Students	0	0	61	0	61 Veterans Students	0	0	51	130	181 Veterans Students
Outreach TAP/Seminars/Workshops Attendees	0	0	49	127	176 Veteran Attendees	0	0	348	0	348 Veteran Attendees	74	88	164	178	504 Veteran Attendees
Attendee Hours in TAP/Sem./Wksh.	0	0	96	244	340 Hours	0	0	696	0	696 Hours	74	88	164	178	504 Hours

	Funding Disbursements	1st Q.	1st Qtr TOTAL	2nd Q.	2nd Q. TOTAL	3rd Q.	3rd Q. TOTAL	4th Q.	YTD TOTAL
Flint	FY 2007 non competitive transition grant $140k FY 2006 funding $180k	$31,250	$31,250	$36,250	$67,500	$36,250	$103,750	$36,250	$140,000
Boston	FY 2007 non competitive transition grant $180k FY 2006 funding $225k	$31,250	$31,250	$49,583	$80,833	$49,583	$130,416	$49,584	$180,000
St. Louis	FY 2007 non competitive transition grant $140k FY 2006 funding $180k Bootstrap grant $10k	$31,250 $0 grant	$31,250 $0 grant	$36,250 $0 grant	$67,500 $0 grant	$36,250 $10,000	$113,750	$36,250	$150,000

In addition to the states just mentioned, TVC spent $1,248,901 on program dollars for counseling and guidance by TVC National office staff to Veterans on access to capital, surety bonding, and many other aspects in starting or growing a business in all 50 states through phone calls or email detailed in the charts earlier in my testimony. TVC national staff also participated in or directed programs in these additional states of AL, CO, DC, LA, MD, NC, NJ, NM, NV, TX, WA

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, in FY 2007, TVC made tremendous strides in providing the tools and resources necessary for Veterans, Service-Disabled Veterans, members of the Guard and Reserve and their family members to be successful in business. In FY 2007 TVC continued this trend by creating programs that provided access to the most sought after resources for Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran owned businesses: capital and bonding. TVC also expanded its education and training offerings by forming partnerships with such groups as the Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association that provides Veterans with an outlet to start their own trucking business and with VetBizNetwork.net which provides Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran contractors access to greater teaming opportunities.

Before I go any further, I want to take a moment to shed a human light on these numbers. Two recent examples of Veterans whom TVC has assisted include Army National Guard, Lt. Trinity Cazzola and Joe Santiago.

As a member of the Army National Guard, Lt. Trinity Cazzola is used to being a man on a mission. He's got a new mission now: lending his entrepreneurial spirit to the rebirth of New Orleans. On November 26, 2007, Cazzola threw a grand opening party for Mayas Restaurant, located on 2027 Magazine Street in New Orleans. However, Cazzola is no ordinary restaurateur: just eight short months ago, he was on active duty in Iraq. With the help of business partner, Edgar Arias, and The Veterans Corporation (TVC), Cazzola was able build a restaurant from halfway across the world.

As a platoon leader in Iraq, Cazzola was conducting missions around the clock, coordinating up to 20 soldiers at a time from remote locations. Even though he was on call 24/7, he was still able to devote a few hours a day of his personal time to organizing the restaurant. Every moment he could carve out, Cazzola was writing a business plan, crunching marketing numbers, and even applying for a liquor license. It's no surprise that America's soldiers are known for their determination.

Cazzola called TVC staffer Erin Jones to inquire about assistance from TVC, and made an immediate impression when he next spoke with TVC's Access to Capitol expert James Mingey. "I was amazed. Here is a guy who must be under incredible stress while serving our country, and he's still got the willpower to pursue his dream. I was determined to help him any way I could."

TVC is providing Veterans with experts to help them through the financing process, whether they're starting a business, or just need a little cash to keep things going. When Cazzola entered the program, he got full service help, from simple business plan advice to conference calls with bankers. Starting a restaurant takes time, but TVC is not in the business of giving up on Veterans, and TVC was eventually able to help Cazzola find the right loan.

With the government facing the daunting prospect of reintegrating thousands of returning soldiers, TVC wants to ensure that new Veteran entrepreneurs have the resources to succeed. As any small business owner knows, capital is often the hardest thing to come by. While there are number of veteran loan programs out there, soldiers like Cazzola have a hard time cutting through the red tape. TVC's Access to Capital was designed to change all that. Joe Santiago's story is a perfect example of TVC's dedication getting Veterans the resources they need.

November 13, 2007 was a triumphant day in the life of a soldier, his wife, and his family. For more than four years, the Santiago family had been coping with the traumatic brain injury Joe Santiago suffered in Iraq. On November 22, 2007, they celebrated the Grand Opening of their Nestle Tollhouse "Café by Chip" franchise. It was an accomplishment that seemed impossible just a few years ago.

In March of 2003, Joe was on a surveillance mission near the Kuwaiti-Iraq border when he fell 20 feet and suffered a direct blow to the head. At the time, he thought the injury was minor. However, persistent numbness in his arm, tunnel vision, and headaches eventually forced him to seek medical attention.

What followed was a three year journey through the twisted channels at Walter Reed and Bethesda medical centers and finally onto the VA Medical Center. Since there was no visible sign of an injury, doctors initially suspected Joe of faking his symptoms. They figured he was just trying to milk the system for some extra benefits. But people who had met Joe before the injury knew something was definitely wrong.

He had memory loss, and he had trouble with simple household tasks. He had to leave hours early for a doctor appointment because he often got lost. Loud noises distracted him; he often stuttered and was in constant pain. He was emotional, and even the slightest difficulty would send him flying off the handle.

TVC began working with Joe when he and his wife were unable to secure a loan to open the business. TVC's access to capital partner, the National Economic Opportunity Fund (NEOF), began negotiating with bank officers. Within a month, the Santiago's had a loan and were preparing for the grand opening of their business. Today, Joe and his wife

Stacy, along with their daughters, are successfully operating their own business, which not only provides for their family, but allows Joe Santiago to work despite the injuries he sustained.

As you can see from both of these stories, TVC supports servicemen and women who have not only demonstrated focus and commitment in their combat overseas, but also in their personal pursuit for success here at home. And while we would like to help more of our armed forces returning from duty, we are limited by the size of our pockets.

Despite the expansion of programs and outreach that TVC has demonstrated over the last year, a very serious issue must be addressed regarding TVC's Veteran Business Resource Centers. TVC has opened four Veteran Business Resource Centers over the past three years and all face similar issues to those that TVC faces nationally in terms of raising private funds and, subsequently, limiting their services because of undercapitalized budgets. We have shared realistic budget figures of $250,000 to $500,000 per VBRC site with Hill staff. Multiply the lower figure, TVC would need $12,500,000; with the higher figure $25,000,000.

TVC's primary concern is that some members of Congress would force us to open centers that we cannot fund and would serve only a small number of Veterans within a two hour drive time of any particular location. TVC believes that, in this 21st century environment, a combination of face-to-face services, along with online and distance learning will serve the largest number of Veterans needing and wanting TVC's services in all fifty states.

P.L. 106-50, as it was originally envisioned to create and maintain a national network of VBRCs cannot be implemented with limited resources and more importantly is not the most efficient way to reach a large number of Veterans.

Mr. Chairman, let us now directly address concerns of our critics.

> Due to limited on-the-ground resources and a constrained marketing strategy, The Veterans Corporation needs to reach a larger portion of veteran's community.
>
> **TVC agrees that we have many more Veterans to reach, but look at who we have reached with limited dollars. Funding only three centers in three cities will not reach more Veterans.**
>
> TVC does not participate in transition workshops,
>
> **Not True. TVC wrote and edited a whole new section in the Transition Assistance Program that focuses on Entrepreneurship as an option for service members. The SBA then followed our lead and asked to be included. Our new office at Walter Reed counsels transitioning service members and the three centers that TVC funded in FY'07, a majority of those counseled were part of the TAP program.**

TVC has no evidence that on-line services are the most effective outreach method.

Not true. In FY'07 alone TVC received more than 277,000 unique visits lasting more than 3:00 minutes. In the 21st century, 3 minutes is an eternity in web time. Of those longer visits, there were 33,095 individual downloads of materials.

TVC has not initiated any specific efforts to target states or communities with large concentrations of vets and reservists.

Again, not true, TVC has targeted the top ten states in grant consideration. A priority is placed on programs serving large or underserved Veteran populations with innovative and effective entrepreneurial solutions. Five of the nine grants funded in FY'08 were in the largest ten states. TVC could have funded many more states if the Senate had gone along with the House recommendation of $2.5 million in FY'08.

Redesign of the organization's service delivery strategy has made fulfilling the statutory mission (TVC was established to provide comprehensive business training to ensure Vets can compete with their counterparts) more difficult.

TVC has not given up any programs or outreach. Our National office maintains face-to-face, phone counseling, online education, seminars, workshops and a complete web outreach in all fifty states. Our center outreach has moved from three 501(c) (3)'s to nine organizations in eight states.

As a portion of veteran needs, the services TVC rendered is quite small.

We agree. TVC only has a small budget to reach millions of Veterans. With 4.2 million Veterans owned businesses, on our current funding we can't even afford the stamp for the envelope to do direct mail.

TVC has failed to design programs to address the changing needs of Veterans population.

Quite the contrary, younger veterans are tech savvy and want materials electronically at their fingertips. Trinity Cazzola found TVC's website while serving in Iraq.

One-on-one counseling and more directed service is necessary.

We agree. However, we are restrained by funds to fully support this activity. With more funds and with our competitive grants program we can provide targeted funds in all fifty states without the additional overhead costs of stand-alone centers.

TVC has not established new programs for the current veteran population – services for service-disabled or female sectors even as they are growing and increasingly seeking opportunities.

Not true. The TVC grants program addresses this issue, "under service." In addition TVC has been working with the Kessler Foundation in New Jersey on a program called, dVets, for Service Disabled Veterans in New Jersey.

TVC has had too many pilot programs. Failed to outline comprehensive plans for the services they will be providing or a clear picture of how those programs fit into the overall mission.

TVC will always explore ways to reach out to Veterans and adopt the ones that work. Pilot programs allow TVC to ensure that new programs actually work before committing dollars to a nation wide program.

TVC has lost control over the quality of services provided. Neither clear standards, nor benchmarks to measure program success.

That is precisely one of the reasons TVC moved from contracts to a national grants program. The TVC grants program sets baseline metrics to measure success. These include (1) loans/funding facilitated, (2) surety bonding facilitated, (3) Veteran businesses started, (4) public/private contracts facilitated and (5) Veterans counseled and trained.

With $3.2 - $6.7 million a year, TVC can serve as a catalyst, facilitator, clearinghouse and funder of a national/local set of programs and services, serving Veterans in all fifty states. This will be achieved through partnerships with Veteran Service Organizations, The Surety and Fidelity Association of America, the National Economic Opportunity Fund, SBDC's, PTAC's, DOL One Stop Centers, SCORE, SBA, VA, DoD, Congress and the White House. With sufficient funding, we can operate 21st century online and distance learning programs to serve Veterans everywhere.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we do have some exciting news that we want to share regarding program funding in FY' 08 that we were able to achieve despite our limited funds. As I touched on earlier in my testimony, in the fall of 2006 TVC set in place a competitive grants program to reach as many Veterans as possible in all fifty states. In the summer of 2007, TVC released the RFP for competitive grants commencing October 1, 2007. By November 1, 2007, TVC had received nearly $2 million in grant applications from organizations in 22 states – organizations that were already in place and serving Veterans who want to start and grow a business.

In FY'08, with reduced dollars from Congress, TVC has been able to award 8 grants totaling $329,000. In the category of entrepreneurial education and counseling, The Veterans Corporation awarded $67,500 to the Veterans Advocacy Foundation in St. Louis, MO, for their program entitled Bootstraps; $30,000 was awarded to the Seattle Business Assistance Center in Seattle, WA, for their program entitled VOTE (Veterans Outreach for Training and Education); and $30,000 was awarded to Jewish Vocational Service in Boston, MA, for their Entrepreneurial Training Program.

To specifically serve the Service-Disabled Veteran community with entrepreneurial education, outreach, and resources, The Veterans Corporation awarded $37,500 to the Technological and Research Development Authority in Melbourne, FL, for their project entitled the Florida Disabled Veterans Business Initiative; $25,000 was awarded to the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY, for the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities University Consortium; and $35,000 was awarded to Able-Disabled Advocacy, Inc. in San Diego, CA for their program entitled Busines$ense.

Lastly, to foster entrepreneurship in the Veteran community through outreach and business planning, The Veterans Corporation awarded $67,500 to VetBiz Central in Flint, MI, for outreach, and awarded $36,500 to the Jewish Vocational Service and Employment Center in Chicago, IL, for Veterans Basic Business Training. In addition, TVC has funded St. Louis with an $8,000 grant for a Bootstraps program, and the New England Veteran Homeless Shelter with a $10,000 grant plus computer equipment.

Mr. Chairman, as TVC finishes the 2nd quarter of FY 2008, it can take pride not only in the remarkable growth in programs and services it provides the entire Veteran urban and rural community in all fifty states, but more importantly the Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran business owners that have turned their dreams into reality with the opportunity TVC continues to provide.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the House of Representatives, especially you Chairman Mollohan, and you Ranking Member Frelinghuysen. You and your staff led the fight in the House Appropriations Committee last summer and fall to fully fund TVC at $2.5 million in FY'08. We also thank Representative Shelly Moore Capito of West Virginia, Heath Shuler of North Carolina, and Gwen Moore of Wisconsin; both members of the House Small Business Committee who signed the Capito "Dear Colleague" letter last December urging the House to hold the line against Senate plans to zero out TVC. We appreciate your confidence in TVC programs and services, and Veterans like Trinity Cazzola and Joe Santiago thank you too.

Thank you, and I will be happy to take any questions you or the Committee might have.

TVC Budget/Appropriations Overview FY'09-'13
The National Veterans Business Development Corporation dba The Veterans Corporation (TVC)

Mission

The mission of TVC is to create more prosperous communities and a stronger national economy by fostering business opportunities for Veterans and Service-Disabled Veterans. TVC is an organization that provides direct program services while acting as an entrepreneurial catalyst/ clearinghouse/ facilitator/ broker for Veterans, Service-Disabled Veterans, and members of the Armed Forces especially those service members from Iraq and Afghanistan transitioning from military service into the business community.

Goals

- Continue to create and maintain a network of information and assistance Veteran Business Resource Centers (VBRC) through direct grants to such centers and fund Veteran Entrepreneur programs through a competitive grants process across the nation to assist Veterans who want to start or grow a business as directed in P.L. 106-50.
- Institute and coordinate programs and services from a national hub in Washington, DC; including education, mentoring, counseling, access to capital, and surety bonding, for Veterans, Service-Disabled Veterans, members of the Guard and Reserves, and transitioning members of the Armed Forces.
- Provide pre/post-deployment assistance to members of the Guard and Reserves and their families to preserve Guard/Reserve owned businesses.
- Provide entrepreneurial opportunities and training for a new generation of Veterans and Service Disabled Veterans, especially those returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Increase awareness of TVC's programs and services through targeted outreach to key stakeholders.
- Partner with military hospitals to provide entrepreneurship and workforce training and internship programs to recovering service members and Veterans.
- Serve as a liaison between organizations, agencies and other Veteran Service Organizations to coordinate and facilitate Veteran entrepreneurship programs offered nationwide in efforts to maximize available resources and encourage collaboration.

Congressional Jurisdiction

- House and Senate Small Business Committees
- House and Senate CJS Appropriations Committees

Appropriations	TVC Programs	Grants	Outreach to Stakeholders	G and A	
'09	0.8M	1.5M	.5M	0.4M	$3.2M
'10	1M	2.5M	.5M	0.5M	$4.5M
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				Total	$25.4M

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				Total	$25.4M

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, we look forward to working with you and being very interactive with you, and seeing how you can provide outreach to veterans. We want to give you a chance to do that. And so that is why we worked hard to get that funding last year. We are looking for results and how you expect to leverage that to actually help veterans. Thank you very much for your testimony. Mr. Frelinghuysen?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. No comments, but thank you for being here.

Mr. GAULT. Thank you, sir.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. We want to welcome Mr. Farr, who is a distinguished Member of Congress from California to the hearing. Mr. Farr. Thank you, Mr. Gault. Sam, welcome to the hearing.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NOAA

WITNESS

HON. SAM FARR, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. FARR. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I submit my testimony. I just want to speak freely to the Committee and summarize my thoughts, and thank you very much for giving this time for me. I represent the Oceans Caucus, it is a bipartisan, four co-chairs equally split between both parties. And we wrote a letter to the Committee signed by 65 members asking that we increase, the administration cut the ocean side of NOAA. I have always said that, you know, they want to take the O out of NOAA. And they increased the A side, the atmosphere——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. I do not think that is going to happen, as long as you are here.

Mr. FARR. Well, I just want to remind the Committee that, just all my years of living on the coast, the coastlines of the United States are the most populated areas and the most fragile ecosystem in the world is the intertidal basin where the waves hit the land. And that is where gatherers just take things. And our near shore activity is that we dump everything we do not want in society, sewage, garbage, even nuclear waste, into the oceans at the same time we are vastly harvesting the oceans. 60 Minutes had a program about a month ago showing that the largest traded food commodity in the world is fish. And this is where the Japanese were paying $250,000 for one tuna. And you can see what sort of the fishing fleets of the world, who are a lot of poor countries, it is about just get as much as you can get to make a living.

And in this whole thing we are trying to, and the oceans are 73 percent of the earth's surface. So the management of this is kind of like managing land, we really have not gotten there yet but we are sort of realizing that we cannot just take out of the ocean and dump in and allow the lungs of the world, because this is where all weather originates, and is, that this ocean stuff really, really is important.

Congress has enacted an Oceans Commission, they made recommendations, they have a bill hopefully will be on the floor very

soon of all the recommendations they made, just like the 9/11 Commission recommendations. The concern around the world by coastal countries is high. And so it is just the wrong time to cut the oceans budget. And I might just say parenthetically, I mean, they added a lot of money into the atmosphere and a lot of satellite issues. I am very interested in that because I have a weather station in Monterey co-located with a Navy thing. And what I have learned is that our, and maybe you can put some report language in there, about looking at this collaboration, is that our military capacity to monitor all the weather is the foremost weather gathering mechanisms from the bottom of the ocean to the top of the atmosphere, how much of that is shared and collaborated with. I mean, NOAA came to Monterey because the Navy Fleet Numerical Center was there. And I know other intel agencies gather all of this data just because they monitor environmental issues because famine and storm and pestilence and disease, all those things can really affect defense issues.

So there is a lot of assets in the air. There is a lot of interest in the commercial activity, obviously, in the satellite and stuff. But I think we do that at the expense of the oceans, which generates the weather. So I am very interested in, and what we asked for is, and at the same time I have to add that California is experiencing a total shutdown of the salmon season. That affects California and Oregon. And that would be just like having plant closure, huge base closure in your industry. It affects not only the fishermen but all of the suppliers, you know, the fuel docks and the marketers, and everything like that, as much as the restaurants and so on.

So this, we have a crisis in the ocean and this is not the time to be cutting it. And our bipartisan letter to you asks that we increase that account by $400 million over the President's asked. $140 million for ocean and coastal conservation and management, $120 million for ocean science and research, and $110 million for monitoring, observing, modeling, and mapping the ocean. By the way, the authorization for that passed yesterday on the floor. And $30 million for education and outreach. So that is my ask and it is all summarized specifically in the testimony that I gave and I appreciate your time.

While I am here I just want to say one other thing for another part of the budget unrelated to this. As the Chairman knows I am a big fan of Judge Stephen Manley who really is going to come here and talk about drug courts. I am convinced that the only way we really have an effective handle on drug treatment is through the drug courts. You need to have that ability, you need to have that authority, to essentially plan for individuals, and have that discipline that is not just voluntary to get people off it. You know, it is hard to break an addiction, terribly difficult. And I think they have shown incredible successes. And that is why every county in which the courts have established a drug court there is an overwhelming support, because it brings in all the social services and other kinds of things. So I am keenly supportive of Judge Manley's ask before you today and I appreciate having me here.

[Testimony of Congressman Sam Farr.]

SAM FARR
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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March 28, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE HONORABLE SAM FARR
BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and Members of the Subcommittee: Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony to you.

I come here today not only on my own behalf, but also as one of five co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus. The other co-chairs of this bipartisan leadership on oceans issues are Reps. Tom Allen (D-ME), Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), Jay Inslee (D-WA), and Jim Saxton (R-NJ). Together we championed an effort to send a letter to this subcommittee in support of programmatic funding increases for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), garnering 65 co-signers.

It is undeniable that our oceans and coasts are among our greatest natural resources. Over half of the US population lives in coastal states. Coastal and marine waters support over 2.8 million jobs and the coastal economy generates half of the nation's GDP. The culture, economy, and security of our Nation depend on the health and sustainability of these assets, yet we are not sufficiently managing and protecting them. Though the budget this year is more constrained than ever, I respectfully urge you to make oceans a funding priority. An increased and sustained investment now will enhance the benefits we reap in the future. This need was highlighted by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy report, and the Joint Ocean Commission report issued in 2004 and 2006, respectively.

In February of this year, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative (JOCI)—lead by Admiral James Watkins (Ret.) of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Honorable Leon Panetta of the Pew Ocean Commission—released its 2007 U.S. Ocean Policy Report Card. The Report Card measures the effectiveness of federal and state government in achieving a condensed list of policy priorities for our oceans. The grade given for "New Funding for Ocean Policy and Programs" was a D+. This improvement from the F given last year for funding is an encouraging sign, however continued funding at the level of $3.9 billion to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the lead federal agency for ocean-related management and activities, has led to a serious erosion of capabilities. NOAA is still not receiving the funds they need to respond to the 10 priority policy recommendations JOCI made to Congress *at our request*.

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Along those lines, I want to emphasize the invaluable services and programs of NOAA: Among these are the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the Integrated Ocean Observing Program, the National Sea Grant College Program, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, and the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, just to name a few. Combined, the many NOAA activities support necessary ocean protection, research, exploration, and education. Therefore, it is important that we make significant progress toward increasing NOAA's funding to $4.5 billion in the very near term. This request includes increases of $140 million for Ocean and Coastal Conservation and Management, $120 million for Ocean Science and Research, $110 million for Monitoring, Observing, Modeling, and Mapping, and $30 million for Education and Outreach over the President's 2009 request. Even though the President's 2009 budget proposal has made progress toward the necessary funding by requesting $4.1 billion in NOAA funding, the cuts to the oceanic side of NOAA that were enacted in fiscal year 2008[1] and those that are proposed in the president's budget are unacceptable and would seriously impair the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency to continue its coastal and oceanic mission. To allow cuts would be a step in the wrong direction and would sustain the "failing grade" received on JOCI's Ocean Policy Report Card.

As a Member of California's coastal delegation, I am intimately connected to and an advocate for the oceans. Several of the programs under NOAA's jurisdiction and other private/state entities are represented in my district and help make it one of the most dynamic coastal destinations in the country. For instance, it includes the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary—the Nation's second largest marine sanctuary supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems—the National Marine Protected Area Center and Science Institute, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. In addition, it houses several top ocean research laboratories and education institutions (e.g., University of California at Santa Cruz, Moss Landing Marine Lab, California State University at Monterey Bay), where key studies/programs are conducted related to highly migratory species like sharks and tuna, protected species like salmon, ocean observing, data collections on fish stocks and ocean economics, and basic research to increase our understanding of the ocean. Of course, these are also several attractive areas that support a high influx of coastal tourism annually.

I cannot emphasize enough the need to show our ocean stewardship now, so we can turn the tide on the dire consequences facing our oceans. Therefore, I would appreciate your support in funding several NOAA programs and others that are of critical importance to my district and to our nation. Please consider this written testimony for the record. I do understand the requested investment is sizable; however, it has to be done to protect our largest public trust. Let's start to make the necessary strides in the 2009 cycle, because the losses will be greater and more irreparable the longer we wait.

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[1] See attached Tables of budget cuts to NOAA Fisheries Service and NOAA National Ocean Service in FY '08 and proposed budget cuts in FY'09

Significant Budget Cuts in FY'08
(in millions)

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	
Marine Mammal Initiative	-$5.0
Bottlenose Dolphins	-$2.0
North Pacific Council - marine mammal work	-$1.5
Hawaii Sea Turtles	-$0.6
Fish Research and Management	-$9.7
Hatcheries & Pacific Salmon Treaty	-$6.3
Survey and Monitoring	-$11.5
North Pacific Marine Observers	-$2.3
Chesapeake. Bay Studies, Crab/Oyster Restoration	-$6.6
Open Rivers Initiative	-$4.4
Cooperative Research	$2.3
NOAA National Ocean Service	
Office of Response and Restoration	-$5.2
Integrated Ocean Observing Systems	-$7.0
Coastal Zone Management Administration and Grants	-$3.1

Proposed Budget Cuts in FY'09
(in millions)

NOAA Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	-$15.4
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	-$46.8
NOAA National Ocean Service	-$47.9

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well he is a great advocate for drug courts as are you. Thank you for your testimony here with regard to NOAA and your written remarks will be made a part of the record.

Mr. FARR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate it very much.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you. Mr. Frelinghuysen?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I echo those sentiments. Thank you, Sam, for all you do. You are a strong advocate, and thank you for putting a plug for Judge Manley as well. He enjoys a great reputation.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Sam. Next the Committee would like to welcome Beth McGrath with the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education, Stevens Institute of Technology. Ms. McGrath.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NSF

WITNESS

BETH McGRATH, DIRECTOR, THE CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE EDUCATION, STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Ms. MCGRATH. Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, it is my honor to speak to you today about the interest that funding from agencies under your jurisdiction, notably the National Science Foundation, is having on teachers and students throughout New Jersey. My name is Beth McGrath and I am Director of the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education at Stevens Institute of Technology. Last fall I had the opportunity to meet the Director of the NSF at a forum sponsored by Congressman Frelinghuysen and I was encouraged to share with you our successes working with teachers and students in K through 12.

The center I direct at Stevens is currently implementing an NSF project whose goal is to motivate students to pursue study and careers in engineering, science, and information technology. Over three years the BUILD IT Project will reach more than 2600 middle and high school students. By designing, building, and controlling under water robots, students learn concepts such as buoyancy, gears, and electricity, and work in teams to problem solve. We are also educating guidance counselors on diverse STEM and IT careers and helping to break down persistent stereotypes about the gender and ethnic backgrounds of those suited to pursue STEM studies and professions.

A teacher in Camden, New Jersey, where more than 91 percent of students participate in the federal lunch program wrote about the project, "I cannot fully express how BUILD IT has changed our students. Contrary to the media's image of the lackadaisical inner city student I am overwhelmed by students who attempt to show their talent and ability. I am even approached by students in lower grades who ask me what they should do to be in the class next year. My students are excited with dreams and possibilities, fueled by their new levels of confidence and focus. I have been able to introduce my students to a new world of goals and careers they never thought about, or even knew existed."

A school in suburban New Jersey used its BUILD IT experience to win a $6000 NASA rookie grant and place second in a statewide robotics competition. The team has been honored by their peers, their school, the town council, the business community, and local papers and radio stations. The teacher reports that the program has added a cool factor to STEM studies. It is especially notable that this student team is comprised of athletes, artists, theater people, writers, student government, and others not typically associated with engineering. The teacher reports that the majority of BUILD IT seniors apply to colleges as engineering majors. They believe that engineers make the world a better place.

Another Stevens K through 12 initiative also benefits from NSF investment. The Engineering Our Future New Jersey Program is working to ensure that all students in New Jersey experience engineering as an integral component of their K through 12 education, not merely as an elective or extracurricular activity. To date, this program has impacted nearly 1500 teachers in 250 school districts in all of New Jersey's twenty-one counties.

NSF's investment in the Engineering is Elementary curriculum, a product of the Boston Museum of Science, has allowed us to attract more than 600 elementary teachers to workshops showcasing engineering and its connection to science.

A few other NSF programs are also having a broader impact on the K through 12 community. Through a recently funded Graduate Teacher Fellows in K through 12 Education Award fifty PhD students will support 130 high school teachers and nearly 12,000 students over five years in STEM content and lessons that showcase innovative engineering research.

And lastly, a Stevens research team is creating nanomaterials to reduce infection during joint replacement surgery. Our center is adapting this research to develop lessons suitable for high school biology and chemistry courses to expose students to cutting edge applications of science and engineering in order to entice more students into these fields.

In closing, as your Subcommittee makes critical decisions about where best to allocate limited federal resources, I wanted you to know how NSF support of a broad array of K through 12 education programs and research is making a very real difference in the lives and the very futures of all of our children. The more such resources can be focused on the front lines directly in our classrooms the better for this and future generations. Thank you again for this opportunity.

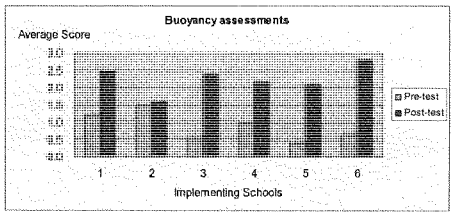
[Testimony of Beth McGrath; Director, Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education, Stevens Institute of Technology.]

Beth McGrath
Director
Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education
Stevens Institute of Technology

Testimony before the House Appropriations Sub-committee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, it is my honor to speak to you today about the difference that funding from agencies under your jurisdiction, notably the National Science Foundation (NSF), is having on teachers and students throughout New Jersey. My name is Beth McGrath and I am the Director of the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) at Stevens Institute of Technology. Last fall, I had the opportunity to meet the Director of the NSF, Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr., at a forum sponsored by Congressman Frelinghuysen in New Jersey, and I was encouraged to share the success of our university-based initiatives working with teachers and students in K-12.

The Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) at Stevens Institute of Technology is currently implementing a $1.2 million NSF Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) program whose objective is to motivate students—particularly those from underrepresented groups—to pursue study and careers in engineering, science, and information technology. Over three years, this grant will have impacted more than 2,600 middle and high school students largely from urban, disadvantaged school districts such as Newark, Jersey City, and Camden, New Jersey. In this project, students work in teams to design, build, and deploy remotely-operated vehicles—robots constructed from LEGO materials, motors, and controlled by wire-guided switches—to perform a series of increasingly complex challenges in an underwater environment. Students learn and test their understanding of sometimes abstract and difficult concepts such as buoyancy, gears, and electricity.



Buoyancy: The average test scores of the students from the six schools that have turned in test results from their first implementations show that students knew very little about this concept before and that those students who knew the least improved the most.

During this first year of classroom implementation, the project is showing an impressive impact on student learning of these concepts, as well teachers' assessment of their students' problem-solving abilities, engagement, motivation, and ability to work in teams. In addition, a critical objective of this grant is to bolster the understanding of guidance counselors about the need for and diverse career paths available to students who pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and IT study and careers, and to break down stereotypes about the gender and ethnic backgrounds of those suited to pursue engineering and technical professions, so that more students will be encouraged to pursue these fields.

Teacher Aaryenne White of Veteran's Middle School in Camden, New Jersey, a district in which 91% of students participate in the federal lunch program, wrote about the project:

"I cannot fully express how the BUILD-IT Program has changed our students. Contrary to the media's repeated image of the lackadaisical inner city student, I am often overwhelmed with students who attempt to show their talent and ability. I am even approached by students in lower grades who ask me what they should do to be in the class next year. My students are excited with dreams and possibilities fueled by their new levels of confidence and focus. I have been able to introduce my students to a new world of goals and careers they never thought about or knew existed. I thank you and your program for helping me help my students look toward new challenges."

At the other end of the socio-economic spectrum, two other BUILD IT participants from an affluent New Jersey suburb have also expressed the impact of the program on them and their school:

Robbinsville High School Student Ridi Alvi states, "Since I was always interested in technology, BUILD IT helped me foster those interests and make them academic and career goals. [This program] gave me the opportunity to explore and learn the "tricks of the trade" of an engineer, and what it truly means to become one."

Robbinsville teacher Joy Wolfe says: "As a result of our BUILD IT experience, we won a $6,000 NASA Rookie grant and started a FIRST robotics team that ultimately placed second in the NJ FIRST Robotics competition and earned the right to compete in the 2008 national competition in Atlanta. The team has been honored by their peers, administration, the town council, members of the business community, local papers, and the local radio station. They have raised the positive awareness of STEM activities, experienced and helped portray engineering as fun and exciting, and added a "cool" factor to the discipline. Our students are athletes, artists, theater people, writers, student government, and come from all areas of interest.

"The majority of BUILD IT seniors applied to colleges as engineering majors and have a firm foundation of what to expect as they start their college careers. They believe that engineers make the world a better place..."

Another K-12 initiative also greatly benefits from an NSF investment in innovative, research-based curriculum resources. The Stevens *Engineering Our Future NJ* program aims to ensure that all students in New Jersey experience engineering—with a focus on innovation—as an integral component of their K-12 education, not merely as an elective or extracurricular activity. We adamantly believe that this objective, to include engineering in classes taken by **each and every student**, not only those who know enough about engineering to self-select a course or participate in an after-school competition, is a critical element necessary to harness the talent of **all** students—girls, African Americans, Hispanics, and other groups not adequately represented in our present technical workforce. To date, this multi-faceted program has impacted 1,451 teachers to date in 250 school districts in all of New Jersey's 21 counties. NSF's investment in the *Engineering is Elementary* curriculum, a product of the Boston Museum of Science, has

allowed us to attract approximately 600 elementary teachers to workshops and programs in order to present the relevance of engineering and its connection to elementary science topics.

Two other NSF programs at Stevens, one aimed at preparing engineering doctoral students with strong communication and teaching skills, and another focused on an important area of biomaterials research, are also having a broader impact on the K-12 community.

In a recently-funded GK-12, or Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education, award, 50 Ph.D. students will impact 130 high school teachers and nearly 12,000 students over a five-year period with classroom support for STEM content and lessons that showcase innovative engineering research.

And lastly, the research associated with an NSF Nanotechnology Interdisciplinary Research Team award, which is developing hydrogel materials to reduce infection during joint replacement surgeries, will be adapted to develop lessons suitable for high school biology and chemistry courses. By integrating cutting edge applications of science and engineering into high school science course work, we expect to entice more students into STEM disciplines.

In closing, as your Subcommittee makes critical decisions about where best to allocate limited federal resources, I wanted to share with you some highlights of the many NSF-funded educational and research programs that are making a real difference in the lives, and the very futures, of all our children. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Beth McGrath, Director, Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education, Stevens Institute of Technology

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you for your testimony. Every year NSF comes up here and testifies about how we are lagging behind in math and science education. It sounds like you are really doing something about it, in New Jersey, the great state that our Ranking Minority Member is from. I am not surprised at his good work.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I am enormously proud. I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for putting Ms. McGrath right up at the top of the list. I think the partnership that Stevens has with our educational community promoting STEM is enormously exciting. You have to capture the interest of these young people early.

Ms. MCGRATH. Very early on.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Otherwise we are never going to get future scientists, mathematicians, physicists, biologists, and chemists. I thank you for leading that so very well.

Ms. MCGRATH. Thank you for this opportunity.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you for your time this morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Frelinghuysen. Next the Committee would like to welcome Ms. Alice White with the Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs Center. Thank you very much for being here today.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NSF

WITNESS

ALICE WHITE, VICE PRESIDENT, BELL LABS NORTH AMERICA, ALCATEL-LUCENT BELL LABS CENTER

Ms. WHITE. Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, other members and guests, thank you. Good morning. My name is Alice White. I am a physicist, currently Vice President of Bell Labs North American. I am also the mother of two girls, and I could not be more excited about that previous testimony.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Yes.

Ms. WHITE. Thank you for the chance to share my comments on the role that the federal government can play in promoting science and research innovations that will benefit the citizens of this country. Specifically I would like to address two issues. First I want to briefly describe a model for government sponsored research collaboration that we have employed successfully within Bell Laboratories. And second I would like to discuss the challenges of adapting to the increasingly global nature of research.

As an industrial laboratory we organize research differently than an academic or national laboratory. On the one hand we have a preeminent basic research capability. We encourage our scientists to explore fundamental issues. However, since we strive to incorporate research advances into innovative products and to create economic value we are more attuned to the application of that research to commercial opportunities. Other research institutions have different but equally essential directives. Universities provide a far wider range of research alternatives while giving students a rich learning experience. And national laboratories help to

prioritize research in areas of national importance that might otherwise be neglected.

Recently we have developed an organizational model that brings together these diverse research parties with multiple benefits and I would like to tell you about one example. In the suburbs of Dublin, Ireland in an Alcatel-Lucent building Bell Labs and Trinity College co-manage the Center for Telecommunications Value Team Research, a consortium of Bell Laboratories and nine separate universities. The program's target is research into next generation manufacturing technologies. Funding comes from the Science Foundation of Ireland, the Investment and Development Authority of Ireland, and Alcatel-Lucent. So in addition to the direct research that has emerged from that program there are other benefits for each of the parties. The Center attracts global talent and provides a fertile innovation environment for the host country. The research partnerships let the universities provide enhanced opportunities for academic internships and they give faculty state of the art knowledge to share with their students. And those ongoing interactions between the faculty, the industrial scientists, the government officials and researchers, really create a wellspring of new ideas that the isolated environments of each party might otherwise stifle. I would love the chance to implement this in the United States.

Let me turn to a second issue. Our world has changed dramatically over the last several decades. The dominant positions that the U.S. held in scientific and technical research has given way to a rising status of research programs from other countries. In 1995 articles with U.S. authors counted for about 50 percent of the science and engineering citations in technical journals. Ten years later, 2005, that percentage was down to 40 percent. Even within this country an increasing percentage of the scientists and engineers at the heart of U.S. research programs are non-U.S. citizens. This is not surprising since according to the NSF in 2005 more than half of the U.S. doctorates in engineering, mathematics, computer sciences, and physics, were earned by foreign born citizens.

Well I imagine that this characterization of the research community can appear disconcerting and alarming to those trusted with developing policies to advance the competitiveness of America. But let me suggest that the globalization trend and the goals of this Subcommittee are not necessarily in conflict. Policies and investments that enhance collaboration and sharing of U.S. research capabilities with others around the globe will improve the ability of U.S. scientists and technologies to compete on the global playing field. In fact, without a research community that is well connected internationally, without the diversity, the capabilities of this country may become marginalized.

So in conclusion our country has been and will continue to be well served by vigorous funding of a broad array of federal programs that promote scientific endeavors, such as those supported by the NSF, NOAA, Department of Commerce. And let me add my belief that programs that leverage the collaboration of industry, government, and academic research interests will offer a far richer set of benefits and should be a principal focus of your policy and funding considerations. Thank you for your attention. I would be happy to answer any of your questions.

[Testimony of Alice E. White, V.P., Bell Labs North America, Alcatel-Lucent.]

Alice E. White
Vice President, Bell Labs North America
Alcatel-Lucent

April 2, 2008

Comments to the U. S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science

Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, good morning. My name is Alice White. I am a condensed matter physicist, currently serving as the Vice President of Bell Labs North America. I would first like to extend my deep appreciation to the Subcommittee members and their staffs for the opportunity to share my comments on issues related to the roles that the Federal Government can assume in promoting the sciences and research innovations that will benefit the citizens of this Country. Specifically, I would like to address two issues. First, I'd like to briefly characterize a particularly effective model of government-sponsored research collaboration that we have employed within Bell Labs. And second, I'd like to discuss the challenges of adapting to the increasingly global nature of the research community.

As you may know, Bell Labs is a research institution with a relatively strong record of innovation, discovery, and contribution. Since its formation, Bell Labs has given rise to more Nobel Prize winners in Physics than any other institution in the world. Our researchers have been honored by receiving nine U.S. National Medals of Science, 12 U.S. National Medals of Technology, two Draper Awards, an Emmy, and a Grammy. Its alumni have gone on to become professors in many of the leading universities, or have become members in other top industry and government research institutions. Today, Bell Labs has about 40% of its people residing in the United States, 20% in France, 20% in Germany, 12% in other European countries, 5% in Asia, and 3% in Canada. We maintain collaborative relationships with over 250 universities throughout the world.

As an industrial lab, our approach to research is quite different from an academic or national laboratory. On one hand, we have a preeminent basic research capability, and also afford our scientists significant opportunities to explore fundamental issues without imposing extensive restrictions. However, since we prioritize the integration of fundamental research advances into innovative products and economic value creation, we are more attuned to the application of that research to addressing commercial opportunities and the research is evaluated on market price and performance expectations.

Other types of research institutions have alternative, but equally essential directives. Academic research is extraordinarily valuable in generally providing a far wider range of research alternatives and considerations while enabling a rich learning experience for students. National laboratories and research institutions provide value by helping to

prioritize research in areas of national importance that might not otherwise be forthcoming from the other segments of the research community.

In Bell Labs, we have employed a model that promotes collaboration among these multiple research parties, and the results have been extremely beneficial on multiple fronts. Let me briefly describe on such example.

In the suburbs of Dublin, Ireland, in an Alcatel-Lucent building, Bell Labs and Trinity College co-manage the Center for Telecommunications Value Chain Driven Research which is a consortium of Bell Labs and nine separate universities. This program is chartered with conducting research in next generation manufacturing technologies. Funding is provided by the Science Foundation of Ireland, the Investment and Development Authority of Ireland, and Alcatel-Lucent. I should add that nothing in this model would exclude other industry research groups from participating.

In addition to the actual and beneficial research assets that have emerged from this program, there are other more significant benefits that impact each of the parties. The center attracts leading global talent and provides a fertile and lively environment for generating innovations for the host country. The research partnerships enable the universities to provide expanded and enhanced opportunities for academic internships, and provide faculty with state-of-the-art knowledge to promulgate within their classrooms. The ongoing interactions among faculty, industry scientists, and government officials and researchers create a well-spring for crafting new ideas that otherwise might not emerge within the isolated environments of each party.

Let me now turn to another issue that I would like to discuss. Our world has changed dramatically over the last several decades. To paraphrase Thomas Freedman, the world of research is indeed becoming flatter, and the world's scientific talent is becoming more evenly distributed. The position that the U.S. held in scientific and technical research has further given way to the rising status of research programs originating in other countries. Consider that as recently as 1995, articles with U.S. authors accounted for about 50% of the citations in all of the world's science and engineering articles in technical journals. Yet just 10 years later, that percentage declined to just above 40%. Further reflecting this trend is the fact that fully 1/3 of all such science and engineering articles in 2005 - with a U.S. author - included a non-U.S. co-author.

Even within this Country, an increasingly larger percentage of the scientists and engineers at the heart of U.S. research programs are non-U.S. citizens. This is not surprising since, according to the NSF, more than half of all U.S. doctorates in engineering, mathematics, computer sciences, and physics in 2005 were earned by foreign born students.

I imagine that this characterization of the research community can appear disconcerting and alarming to those entrusted with developing domestic policies to advance the competitiveness of America. However, let me suggest that the globalization trend and the goals of this subcommittee are not necessarily at odds with each other.

If you think that this statement seems odd, then you share a similar feeling to that of Dr. Albert Einstein who famously declared his frustration in understanding another seemingly contradiction of reality—specifically, the subject of quantum mechanics. To understand quantum mechanics, you must first suspend your beliefs developed over a lifetime of observing things as existing in one specific state at a given time. Quantum Mechanics, which is the basis for much of the world's greatest inventions and scientific insights, is based on the reality that matter can in fact exist in multiple states at the same time. And, by analogy, the same can be true of research globalization and domestic scientific development. Adopting policies or investing in initiatives to enhance collaboration and sharing of U.S. research capabilities with others around the globe will improve the ability of U.S. scientists and technologists to compete in the global playing field. IN fact, without a U.S. research community that is well-connected internationally, the capabilities of this country may become marginalized and second-rate.

Let me conclude by suggesting that our country has been, and will continue to be well-served by the vigorous funding of a broad array of federal programs that promote scientific endeavors, such as those supported by the NSF, the Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, etc. Such efforts should be focused on achieving a critical mass of world-preeminent researchers, a vibrant and innovative economic infrastructure, and the means to sustain national security and the well being of all American citizens. Let me add, however, my belief that programs that leverage the collaboration of industry, academic, and government research assets will offer a far richer set of benefits and should be a principal focus of your policy and funding considerations.

Thank you for your attention. That concludes my prepared remarks. I'd be happy to address any of your questions.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you for your testimony. Since we have talent coming from around the world to the United States, should we be concerned about the drain that that represents on the areas from which this talent comes?

Ms. WHITE. It is interesting, I think we are seeing actually a bounce back effect now as those areas become more economically viable we are certainly seeing people moving back to their countries of origin. And I think that we are more in danger of becoming isolated than we are——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. So the trendline then would suggest that we need to be concerned about generating that talent in our own country?

Ms. WHITE. And that excitement, a must, absolutely.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Yeah. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Ms. White, I want to thank you, as the Chair does, for your testimony. Of course, Bell Laboratories, now under Alcatel-Lucent, is a national asset. And, there are not many scientific operations around the world, the nation, that does not have a little bit of Bell Labs in it. There are quite a lot of alumni out there. I think your remarks are right on target, the whole issue of U.S. dominance, the importance of collaboration. And, thank you for being among a good number of others who support the critical work of the National Science Foundation, NASA, NOAA, and our scientific community. Thank you so much.

Ms. WHITE. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you. Next the Committee would like to welcome Ms. Barbara M. Price with the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women. Ms. Price.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

WITNESS

BARBARA PRICE, NEW JERSEY COALITION FOR BATTERED WOMEN

Ms. PRICE. Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and distinguished members of the Committee, my name is Barbara Price and I thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee.

I speak this morning on behalf of the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women and the National Network to end Domestic Violence. We are requesting $683 million for the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA, programs administered by the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women in fiscal year 2009.

In 2006 there were forty-two domestic violence homicides in New Jersey. Though nationwide domestic violence murders have declined 31 percent since VAWA first passed in 1994, forty-two precious lives are still too many. A staggering one in four women have experienced domestic violence, and approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year. This is a crime and a public health crisis of epidemic proportions.

Thanks to federal funding we have come a long way since 1994. The rate of nonfatal domestic violence has declined 63 percent. By

reducing domestic violence many other costs, such as court expenses and hospital bills, have been reduced. In fact, VAWA saved an estimated $14.8 million in its first six years alone. Palm Beach County, Florida saw domestic violence murders drop from over five per year in 2001 to zero in 2005 after implementing response teams funded by VAWA's Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution, or STOP grants, which are formula grants given to each state. In New Jersey STOP grant funded training given to volunteer domestic violence response team members has helped victims obtain orders of protection and access to services in shelters. And our homicide rate has dropped as a result.

VAWA's Transitional Housing Grants provide a bridge from crisis to self-sufficiency. According to Barbara's House in New Jersey the Transitional Housing Grant has been essential. The families we serve have told us this program saved their lives and gave them hope for the future, and the support they needed to become financially and emotionally independent. And another crucial VAWA program is Civil Legal Assistance for victims. Research indicates that legal services give victims long term alternatives to their abusive relationship. In West Virginia Legal Assistance Grants fund enough attorneys and legal advocates to meet the needs of every victim who requires legal assistance. Unfortunately, Legal Assistance Grants were cut last year.

One sign of VAWA's success has been the increasing numbers of victims, both women and men, who come forward every year. Calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline went up 10 percent in 2007. Our shelters and rape crisis centers see more and more victims each year. This means more victims are getting the information and the courage to step forward, seek help, and hold their perpetrators accountable.

But we cannot serve all the victims who desperately need our help. According to the National Domestic Violence Census, in just one day last September 7,707 requests for domestic violence services went unmet due to lack of capacity. In New Jersey we turned away almost 200 victims that day. This has very real consequences. One program in Maine said, "We have had numerous occasions where women and children returned to their batterers because of lack of housing or room in a shelter." When Chippewa County, Wisconsin lost its VAWA funded domestic violence prosecutor, a significant number of domestic violence misdemeanors were reduced to lesser charges and perpetrators walked away.

Congress worked very hard in the fiscal year 2008 budget to support VAWA grants, including new programs like services for children exposed to violence. This grant will fund a program like we have in New Jersey called Peace A Learned Solution, or PALS. Only 35 percent of children entering PALS tested normal on child behavioral scales. After six months of participation in PALS, 95 percent of the children tested normal leaving the program.

We have seen tremendous progress over the last fourteen years but must increase VAWA funding if we are to keep families safe and hold abusers accountable. We urge Congress to prioritize those cost effective programs and continue the progress by fully funding VAWA at $683 million in fiscal year 2009. Thank you for your time.

[Testimony of Barbara Price, Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women.]

Barbara Price, Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women
Outside Witness Testimony Before the United States House of Representatives
Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies:
Full Funding for the Violence Against Women Act and Raising the Cap for the Victims of Crime Act
April 2, 2008

Testifying to Request: $683 million for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs administered by the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, and a $717 million cap for the Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA), administered by the Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime in the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget.

Introduction

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, Chairman Obey, Ranking Member Lewis, and distinguished members of the Committee, my name is Barbara Price and I thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee to discuss the importance of fully funding VAWA. As an advocate for victims of domestic violence, I am honored to address Representatives who demonstrated phenomenal leadership last year to ensure funding increases in the final FY '08 Omnibus Appropriations bill for essential domestic violence programs. Your current efforts to understand the critical funding needs of agencies that provide life-saving services to victims across the country further demonstrate your committed leadership on these issues.

I speak this morning on behalf of two organizations, both the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women (NJCBW) and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), which together represent all New Jersey nongovernmental domestic violence service providers, all 56 state and territorial domestic violence coalitions, their approximately 2,000 members and millions of victims of domestic violence.

Full Funding for the Violence Against Women Act

NJCBW, NNEDV, and domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking service providers across the country support fully funding VAWA. Although VAWA programs have made systemic changes to meet the needs of victims, the demand for services continues to rise. In order to meet this unmet need and continue the progress of VAWA programs, VAWA must be fully funded in FY '09.

Incidence, Prevalence and Severity of Domestic and Sexual Violence

The crimes of domestic and sexual violence are pervasive and life-threatening. According to the 2005 Bureau of Justice Statistics' *Family Violence Statistics*, of the total victims of violence between 1998 and 2002, 11% were victims of family violence.[1] One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.[2] One in six women and one in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.[3] Of course, the most heinous of these crimes is murder. In New Jersey, there were 42 domestic violence homicides in 2006. In 2005 alone, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner in the United States.[4] Approximately 1/3 of all female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner.[5] These life-threatening crimes occur both behind closed doors and in our communities and must be taken seriously.

The cycle of intergenerational violence is perpetuated as children witness abuse. Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year.[6] Children who are exposed to domestic violence are more likely to exhibit behavioral and physical health problems including depression, anxiety, and violence towards peers.[7] They are also more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution and perpetrate sexual assault.[8] One study found that men exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse and adult domestic violence as children were almost 4 times more likely than other men to have perpetrated domestic violence as adults.[9]

In addition to the devastating emotional, physical, and financial costs domestic and sexual violence have on the lives of individual victims and their families, these crimes also cost taxpayers and communities. In fact, the cost of intimate partner violence exceeds $5.8 billion each year, $4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health care services.[10] Research shows that intimate partner violence costs a health plan $19.3 million each year for every 100,000 women between the ages of 18 and 64 enrolled.[11] The average cost per adult sexual assault is approximately $87,000.[12] Domestic violence costs U.S. employers an estimated $3 to $13 billion annually.[13]

Despite this grim reality, we know that when a coordinated response to victims is developed and immediate, essential services are available, victims can escape from life-threatening violence and begin to rebuild their shattered lives. **In addition to saving and rebuilding lives, VAWA saved taxpayers $14.8 billion in net averted social costs in its first six years.**[14]

Successes of VAWA-Funded Programs

In response to the horrific crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 and reauthorized it in 2000 and 2005. These programs, administered by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services, have changed federal, tribal, state and local responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. VAWA creates and supports comprehensive, cost-effective responses to these insidious crimes.

VAWA has unquestionably improved the national response to domestic violence. Since VAWA passed in 1994, states have passed more than 660 laws to combat domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. More victims report domestic violence to the police: nationwide, there has been a 27% increase in reporting rates by women and a 37% increase in reporting rates by men.[15] In New Jersey we've done even better – our reporting rates have increased by 51%.[16] The rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased by 63%.[17] **Remarkably, the number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 24% for women and 48% for men.**[18]

A recent report by the Office on Violence Against Women explains that "Many jurisdictions that fully adopted coordinated community responses to domestic violence not only dramatically reduced violence against women and their children, but several jurisdictions experienced a reduction in intimate partner homicides."[19] In 1995, **San Diego, CA** reported 13 intimate partner homicides. In 2002, the city opened a Family Justice Center that provided a coordinated, comprehensive response to victims. By 2005, the number of homicides had decreased to five.[20] In **Palm Beach County, FL,** the County Sheriff reported more than five domestic murders per year before 2001. After Domestic Abuse Response Teams and a new technology system were implemented, the County reported an average of two domestic murders per year; in 2002 and 2005, there were no murders at all.[21] These coordinated community responses are funded by **Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution (STOP)** grants, which are formula grants given to each state. In New Jersey, we have certainly seen evidence of such a coordinated community response. The VAWA-funded training given to the volunteer Domestic Violence Response Team members has helped more victims in danger obtain orders of protection and helped them access advocacy services and shelter. We have seen the domestic violence homicide rates drop as a result of these partnerships.

In addition to shelter and advocacy, victims of domestic violence need transitional housing in order to ensure a safe and stable future for themselves and their children. In just one day in 2007, 3,587 adults and 5,053 children were housed in domestic violence transitional housing programs,[22] many funded by VAWA's **Transitional Housing Grants**. According to Barbara's House in New Jersey, "The [Transitional Housing Grant] has been essential in creating and sustaining this program....The families we serve have told us that this program saved their lives and gave them hope for the future and the support they needed to become financially and emotionally independent." The need is great – 1,753 requests for transitional

housing nationwide were denied due to lack of capacity in one day alone[23] – and even small grant programs make a difference. For example, New Jersey has the second-highest average rent in the country, often forcing victims to return to their batterers or face homelessness. In 2004, New Jersey set aside funding to establish the Shelter Housing Exit program, offering victims first month's rent, security deposits and up to 24 months of rental assistance. In the first year, the average length of stay at shelters dropped by four days – declining for the first time in our programs' history.

Another crucial VAWA program is **Civil Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV)**. Research indicates that the practical nature of legal services gives victims long-term alternatives to their abusive relationships.[24] In **West Virginia,** LAV grants fund enough attorneys and legal advocates to meet the needs of every victim who requires legal assistance. **Legal Action of Wisconsin** has used its LAV grant funding to facilitate a partnership with Marquette University to train law students on providing legal services to victims of domestic violence. According to **Legal Services of South Central Tennessee**, "LAV funding allows [us] to provide services to victims/survivors so that they can gain independence. Without this grant, victims/survivors in a seven county area would be denied advocacy services." This legal support is an invaluable resource to victims who are escaping violent homes.

VAWA **Rural Grants** allow jurisdictions to develop and implement programs that address the specific barriers faced by victims in rural areas. During each 6-month period between January 2004 and June 2005, Rural program grantees served more than 20,000 domestic violence victims and 7,000 child victims. These grantees trained over 55,000 individuals and provided community education to over 300,000. According to the **Iowa Department of Justice**, Crime Victim Assistance Division, "Prior to receiving these funds, no victim service agency existed in this area of the state."[25]

For the first time in FY '08, the **Sexual Assault Victim Services Program (SASP)** was funded and will begin to meet the desperate needs of victims of sexual assault. This formula grant will allow states, tribes and territories to provide much-needed direct services to victims and training and technical assistance to various organizations including law enforcement, courts and social services.

The Unmet Need

"We have had numerous occasions where women and children returned to their batterers because of lack of housing or room in a shelter," said one **domestic violence program in Maine**.

This is the scary reality that victims face every day in this country – they reach out to services only to be turned away due to a lack of capacity. Because of the overwhelming success of VAWA-funded programs, more and more victims are coming forward for help each year. For example, VAWA-trained police now give out domestic violence hotline numbers, which in turn encourages more victims to look for services. **This rising demand for services, without a concurrent increase in funding, means that many terrified victims are turned away from life-saving services.** In just one day, over 7,700 requests for services went unmet across the country due to a lack of resources. During that day, New Jersey programs regretfully turned away almost 200 victims because they did not have the resources to meet the victims' needs.[26] In 2007, advocates at the National Domestic Violence Hotline were unable to answer 29,000 calls (14%) due to a lack of capacity and resources. Services for sexual assault victims are even more scarce and underfunded: with only 1,315 rape crisis centers nationwide, women, children and men are languishing on waiting lists to receive treatment and therapy after a sexual assault.

In rural areas, domestic and sexual violence victims suffer in isolation and programs struggle to provide services on shoestring budgets. For instance, in order to address the needs of rural victims in **Fort Dodge, IA**, the Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center (DSAOC) extended their service area to include two additional rural counties. When funding was reduced at the federal level, the project's budget was cut significantly, forcing the agency to abandon plans to open a domestic violence shelter. Now, when women

in the area need to flee to a shelter, they are forced to move over 85 miles away. **Without significant increases to VAWA funding, frustrating situations like these will become common across the country**.

Chippewa County, WI lost its VAWA-funded special domestic violence and sexual assault prosecutor due to insufficient federal funds. Since the position was defunded, Chippewa County has experienced numerous problems with prosecution; a significant number of domestic violence misdemeanors have been reduced to lesser charges of ordinance violation. This leaves perpetrators unaccountable and victims and communities endangered.

One of the greatest needs is specialized services for children who witness domestic violence, as children exposed to violence are more likely to experience a host of negative consequences. In ten New Jersey counties, we have a remarkable program called *Peace: A Learned Solution (PALS)* which is an evidenced-based, nationally recognized, therapeutic program that provides counseling for children who have witnessed domestic violence. Children in the PALS program who received intensive treatment for six months showed a significant decrease in trauma-related symptoms and behavioral problems as compared to children who do not receive this treatment. Though this program is making great strides, PALS programs are not offered across the state. With additional VAWA funding, we could duplicate this model across the state and reap its evidence-based outcomes. While a new VAWA program, *Services for Children/Youth Exposed to Violence,* was funded for the first time at $2.8 million in the FY '08 budget, we know that if it were funded at its authorized level of $20 million, many programs like PALS could flourish.

Overview of VAWA funding

Congress worked very hard in 2007 to support VAWA programs, increasing VAWA funding by $17.3 million overall. The increases fund established as well as new, essential and innovative programs. This funding will greatly improve our nation's efforts to prevent and end domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. In order to pass a spending bill, however, **Congress cut $12.7 million from established, cornerstone VAWA programs,** including a $3.2 million cut to *Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies (GTEAP)* and a $2.1 million cut to *Civil Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV)*.

Cuts to VAWA jeopardize victims' lives because, due to a lack of resources, programs will have to curtail services, lay off staff and turn victims away. Some programs will even close. **By opposing such cuts and instead fully funding VAWA, Congress can take strides toward eliminating these terrible crimes in our country.**

The President's FY '09 Budget Request proposes consolidating all DOJ VAWA programs into one competitive block grant, cutting a devastating $120 million from the overall DOJ VAWA budget. The President's proposals would be decimating. VAWA sustains thousands of victim service organizations serving millions of victims each year. If enacted, the President's proposals would incapacitate the crucial network of victim service providers across the country. Many organizations would be forced to close their doors, leaving victims vulnerable as they desperately attempt to escape life-threatening situations.

Compounding the impact of federal budget cuts, many states are facing state and local budget crises. While federal funding cannot meet all the needs of victims, it leverages state, private and local dollars to provide consistent funding streams to lifesaving services.

Conclusion

VAWA-funded programs have created and sustained an increasingly efficient, comprehensive and lifesaving response to victims, making our country a safer place for families, victims and communities. Now, however, this phenomenal progress is in jeopardy. The President's budget compounds the painful FY '08 budget cuts, undercutting this progress and needlessly endangering millions of victims across the

United States. We have seen a reduction in homicides and the incidence of these heinous crimes. Yet as cuts force shelters and rape crisis centers to close, real victims face traumatic and life-threatening situations with no support. They face trauma, terror and death.

This year, Congress has the historic opportunity to counteract the results of the FY '08 cuts and the President's proposals by fully funding VAWA in FY '09. By prioritizing these vital, cost-effective funding streams, Congress will help to **end** domestic and sexual violence, and the United States will be a place where perpetrators are held accountable and victims are supported.

Raising the Victims of Crime Act Fund Cap

In addition to my plea for VAWA funds, I must tell you about **another distinct, yet equally critical funding stream that helps victims escape and heal from violence**. The Victims of Crime Act, passed in 1984, created the Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA) to be a protected and dedicated source of funding for crime victim programs. VOCA does not depend on taxpayer dollars – it is derived from fines and penalties collected from federal criminals. VOCA dollars are distributed to the states to support two important types of programs: crime victim compensation programs, which pay many of the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by victims as a result of crime, and victim assistance programs, which provide victims with support and guidance in the aftermath of crime.

Nearly four million victims a year are served by more than 4,400 local and state victim service agencies funded by VOCA. VOCA assistance grants support programs that provide assistance to victims of all kinds of crime including victims of assault, intoxicated drivers, elder abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, rape, stalking and many others including the families of homicide victims. To ensure a consistent distribution of VOCA funds to victim service providers, Congress set a cap on the amount of VOCA funds distributed to states, retaining the amount collected over the cap in a separate account to ensure the stability of VOCA. Currently, the VOCA Fund has an estimated balance of $1.7 billion.

Most domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers, the core of our response to victims, rely on continued VOCA funding to sustain their programs. With over **2,000 community-based domestic violence programs for victims and their children, providing emergency shelter to approximately 300,000 victims, and offering counseling, legal assistance, and preventative education to millions of women, men and children annually,**[27] we know that this funding is absolutely crucial in keeping victims and their children safe. In just one day in 2007, over 53,000 adults and children were served by domestic violence programs, including 8,249 adults and 8,432 children who were housed in emergency shelters.[28] Research has found that staying at a shelter or working with a domestic violence advocate significantly reduced the likelihood that a victim would be abused again and improved the victim's quality of life.[29] Victims must be able to access these resources to find safety for their families.

In the FY '08 Omnibus Appropriations bill, however, **VOCA funding was cut by a devastating $35 million.** In addition, DOJ is considering using a significant portion of the VOCA allocation to fund management and administration expenses within the Office of Justice Programs. **These cuts will be decimating to victim service providers and will endanger victims when they are turned away due to a lack of resources.** A 2008 survey of over 1,000 VOCA-funded agencies revealed that these agencies considered VOCA funding "very important." Due to the FY '08 cuts to VOCA, over 58% said they would "serve fewer victims," 46% said they would "provide fewer services," and 54% said they would "reduce outreach." According to one California domestic violence and sexual assault service provider, "These funds are critically important to our small rural domestic violence shelter and rape crisis center. Without them we will have to close our offices and stop providing these needed services."[30]

In order to meet the growing demand for these lifesaving services, I urge you to raise the VOCA cap to $717 million, restoring Victim Assistance Grants to FY '06 levels.

Endnotes

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Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Ms. Price. Thank you for your testimony and your work.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you, Ms. Price, as well for all that you have done in my state, and highlighting some of the progress we have made. You should know that there is strong bipartisan support for more money for the Violence Against Women Act. We will try to get more money on the table.

Ms. PRICE. Thank you.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you very much.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Next the Committee would like to welcome our distinguished colleague, Dennis Kucinich from Ohio. Mr. Kucinich?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NASA

WITNESS

HON. DENNIS KUCINICH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO

Mr. KUCINICH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and members of the Subcommittee. I am going to give an abbreviated version of my full statement which I have submitted for the record. And I want to speak to you, of course, about NASA funding.

Each of NASA's centers performs services for this nation that are both unique and critical. NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland is a perfect example. NASA Glenn is at the forefront of the next generation of space exploration. It is the center taxed with managing the service module for Orion, the replacement for the space shuttle. The integrated testing facility at NASA Glenn's Plum Brook will allow for performance testing of an entire section of Orion. I am proud to say that I led the Ohio delegation in an effort to make sure the full potential of these facilities was clear, and subsequently helped to assure that the work was awarded to Plum Brook.

NASA Glenn is also at the forefront of aeronautics. Air travel is known to be a significant source of global warming pollution. NASA Glenn houses some of the most talented engineers, technicians, and scientists working on engines that use less fuel, and renewable fuels. This is the kind of basic high risk, high return research that the private sector will rarely do because it is unprofitable. But it is imperative that the research be done.

The contribution of NASA and its centers are not only scientific, they are economic. NASA Glenn makes an irreplaceable economic contribution to Northeast Ohio and to the state where the need is even greater in these tenuous economic times. According to researchers at Cleveland State University, NASA Glenn generated a demand for products and services of $1.1 billion throughout Ohio in fiscal year 2006 and was responsible for almost 7400 jobs. NASA Glenn employees paid over $9 million in state and local taxes.

The reason for such a strong history of success and such a promising future is simple, it is the men and women who work there. NASA would be nothing without the brilliant minds that drive innovation in areas that affect each of us every day, and they are the

reason for my request to this Committee. First, I am asking for a ban on involuntary layoff of civil servants. The employees hold immeasurable institutional knowledge, which is crucial to retain now more than ever. NASA already faces an uphill battle in trying to recruit younger talent to replace the large number of retirees. The more experienced workers will also be invaluable as we transition to new space hardware, since new designs will borrow liberally from designs of previous hardware that was conceived decades ago. NASA's workers are its more important asset and hardest to replace.

Second, I requested an increase in exploration by $219 million over the President's budget proposal to $3.7 billion. All the increase is in advanced capabilities, which protect long term focus in pivotal areas such as microgravity, human research, renewable energy research. This request, by the way, maintains the fiscal year 2008 level for advanced capabilities.

I have also requested a small increase over the President's budget request for aeronautics by $147 million to $594 million. What this would do is it would restore the fiscal year 2006–2007 levels and is consistent with the America Competes Act. We cannot allow chronic underfunding of NASA to take its toll on some of the most important research in the world.

And extension of the ban on excessive executive transfers between major funding accounts I believe is still necessary to prevent the administration from making major changes in NASA's budget without the consent of, or even expressed will of Congress.

And finally Mr. Chairman, and Ranking Member, you may be aware of the intrusive background checks that have been fought in the courts by NASA employees. Well background checks may be necessary in targeted high risk situations. NASA management's application of the HSPD12 directive from the Department of Homeland Security is unnecessarily invasive for those positions classified as low risk, where prior background checks found the employee to be fit for government service. So I want to thank the Chair and Ranking Member for your time and consideration. My staff and I are available to assist this Subcommittee in any way possible.

[Testimony of Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich.]

Statement of Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

Hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations and NASA Funding

April 2, 2008

Thank you Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and members of the Subcommittee for allowing me to testify today. I am here to advocate for funding levels and report language that will keep NASA strong and healthy. Specifically, I am requesting $594 million for Aeronautics, $3.72 billion for Exploration, an extension of the ban on civil servant layoffs, an extension of the ban on executive transfer authority, and a ban on intrusive and unnecessary background checks on NASA employees.

Each of NASA's centers performs services for this nation that are both unique and critical. NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland is a perfect example.

NASA Glenn is at the forefront of the next generation of space exploration. It is the Center tasked with managing the Service Module for Orion, the replacement for the Space Shuttle. The Service Module will provide power, propulsion, and communications to the Crew Module that holds Orion's astronauts. The Service Module will also store air and water for extended travel.

NASA Glenn's unique facilities will be pivotal to the success of tomorrow's space program. The integrated testing facilities at NASA Glenn's Plum Brook, for example, will allow for performance testing of an entire section of Orion. I am proud to say that I led the Ohio delegation in an effort to make sure the full potential value of those facilities was clear. The result was that the work was awarded to Plum Brook.

NASA Glenn is also at the forefront of aeronautics. The world's largest icing tunnel is used to further ensure flight safety in cold conditions. As more communities express concern about noise from airports, NASA Glenn's cutting edge research on noise reduction in facilities like their 9-by-15-foot low-speed Wind Tunnel becomes even more in demand. Finally, air travel is known to be a significant source of global warming pollution. NASA Glenn houses some of the most talented engineers, technicians and scientists working on engines that use less fuel and renewable fuels. This is the kind of basic, high-risk-high-return research that the private sector will rarely do because it is unprofitable. But it is imperative that the research is done.

This research and discovery for tomorrow builds upon a long record of excellence. NASA Glenn was the first NASA center to receive an R&D 100 Award from R&D Magazine for the 100 most technologically significant new products. It has taken home 98 of the 150 awards granted to NASA since 1966. It has generated more than 2000 invention disclosures since 1991.

The contributions of NASA's centers are not only scientific – they are also economic. NASA Glenn makes an irreplaceable economic contribution to Northeast Ohio and to the state, where the need is even greater in these tenuous economic times. According to researchers at Cleveland State University, NASA Glenn generated a demand for products and services of $955 million in Northeast Ohio and $1.1 billion in all of Ohio in FY06. It was responsible for over 6,000 jobs in Northeast Ohio and almost 7,400 jobs throughout the State. NASA Glenn employees paid over $9 million in state and local taxes.

The reason for such a strong history of success and such a promising future is simple. It is the men and women who work there. NASA would be nothing without the brilliant minds that drive innovation in areas that affect each of us every day. And they are the reason for my requests of this committee.

First, I have requested a ban on involuntary layoffs of civil servants. If we replace civil servants with contractors, we run the risk of reducing NASA's role to that of a bank. The employees hold immeasurable institutional knowledge which is crucial to retain now more than ever. NASA already faces an uphill battle in trying to recruit younger talent to replace a large number of retirees. The more experienced workers will also be invaluable as we transition to new space hardware since new designs will borrow liberally from designs of previous hardware that was conceived decades ago. NASA's workers are its most important asset and the hardest to replace.

Second, I have requested an increase for Exploration by $219 million over the President's budget request to $3.7 billion. All of the increase is in Advanced Capabilities which will protect a long term focus in pivotal areas such as microgravity, human research, and renewable energy research. This request maintains the FY08 level for Advanced Capabilities.

I have also requested a small increase over the President's budget request for Aeronautics by $147 million to $594 million. This level restores the FY06/FY07 levels and is consistent with the America Competes Act. We cannot allow the Adminstration's chronic efforts to underfund NASA to take their toll on some of the most important research in the country.

An extension of the ban on excessive executive transfers between major funding accounts is still necessary to prevent the Administration from making major changes in NASA's budget without the consent of – or even against the expressed will of – Congress.

Lastly, you may be aware of the intrusive background checks that have been fought in the courts by NASA employees. While background checks may be necessary in targeted, high risk situations, NASA management's application of the HSPD-12 directive from the Department of Homeland Security is unnecessarily invasive for those in positions classified as low risk, when prior background checks found the employee to be fit for government service.

I thank you for your time and consideration. My staff and I are available to assist you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And we look forward to working with you, Mr. Kucinich.

Mr. KUCINICH. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you very much for your testimony.

Mr. KUCINICH. I appreciate the work you do. Thanks for your time.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. You are welcome. Next the Committee would like to welcome our colleague from Maryland, Mr. Wayne Gilchrest. Wayne.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAMS

WITNESS

HON. WAYNE GILCHREST, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mr. GILCHREST. Thank you, gentlemen, for allowing us to have this time. We do have some requests that I will explain in a little bit of detail over a minute or two. The photographs are photographs that I have taken in a few places around the Chesapeake Bay and they are to show you what the dollars and the purpose for the dollars are to be used for. These are simply pictures of nature in the way that we would like it to be because of their beauty, and in the way we would understand it needs to be because of its ecological significance. And when I say ecological significance we are talking about NOAA and other agencies that try to understand the nature of where human activity is or is not compatible with nature's design. And nature's design is an ecological system upon which we all depend for its health and its resources, which provides us with our quality of life. It provides us with air, it provides us with all the resources that make our lives what they are.

In order to continue to allow those places to be what they are and to take the services from those places and use them as our own we have to understand those places, what makes those places work. What is the interaction between the water, the air, the wildlife? The blue heron in that picture would not be there if there were not enough fish in the Chesapeake Bay for it to catch. It would be nice if everybody paddled a canoe in the Chesapeake Bay instead of a cigarette boat because of the damage that it does. And the one picture in there of the winter, with the snow geese and the Canada geese and the tundra swans, is a fairly magnificent spot. The other picture, taken at the very same spot in the summertime, shows the cyclical nature of nature's design.

Now in order for us to understand that and preserve that, so that future generations have that resource of nature, we have to target the dollars in a scientific way so that we can understand how our activity can be compatible with nature's design.

There is a series of things that the staff has in their book. One is the Chesapeake Bay Studies, which gets about $3.5 million in base funding every year. And we are asking, basically we are asking for the same amount. This is a programmatic request and it is necessary to tie a lot of these loose strings together. Much of what I am talking about, $5 million for crab research, $6 million for oys-

ter restoration, Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Fisheries Management, $500,000, that is an ecological study. It is an understanding from the smallest molecule right on up to that blue heron and how all of that ecological structure is integrated and necessary for each level of that food web to be healthy.

As I go through this, and you will see $1 million, $5 million, $3.5 million, and I know people do not like to hear this. And I know it is necessary for us to have the kind of security against terrorism that is necessary. But several hundred million dollars a day, close to if not exceeding $400 million a day, goes to Iraq and Afghanistan. And while the troops are stunningly competent, is our policy as competent as what they have to implement?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well we have been trying to get some of that allocation.

Mr. GILCHREST. Okay. All right, Alan, I am with you on that. But what I am saying is, your hands are tied and I understand how, you know, how this system works. You are not going to be able to give the same amount of money, or even a tenth of the amount of money, to NOAA or a variety of these programs. But in a few decades when our children are our age and they look back and wonder what were we thinking? Why were we not outraged at some of these things to not sustain the kind of environmental condition that we should have for their benefit?

But we think these are pretty significant. They are not highly expensive. And this one particular funding for National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, in my district there is a place called Oxford Lab and there are many different places around the coastal areas of the country. One of the reasons that is important is because they understand the nature of disease in fish. Fish have something called tuberculosis. And just like our tuberculosis that are becoming resistant to antibiotics many fishery species around the country are having the same problem.

And the other thing is, you probably heard this in the news and I will close with this, right in our backyard, the Potomac River, are now having fish that are dual gender. And the culprit likely is a mix of chemicals that we flush down our toilet. Chemicals that make up Drano and chemicals that make up pharmaceuticals for antibiotics, for mental illness. And this mix in the water is affecting the reproductive systems of these fish.

So what we have asked for here is a consideration for the dollars that will be critically focused on a lot of scientific research to improve the quality of nature's design.

[Testimony of Congressman Wayne Gilchrest.]

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WAYNE T. GILCHREST
1st District, Maryland

March 19, 2008

The Honorable Allan Mollohan, Chairman
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H 309 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

Thank you for your leadership in improving the performance and efficiency of the federal agencies under your purview.

I have identified the following as my funding priorities for FY 2008 for Chesapeake Bay, our oceans, coasts and finally, public safety. Although I am joining a number of my colleagues within the watershed on letters in support of several of these programs, I would like to take this opportunity to express my support under separate cover. These requests are in order of priority:

I. NOAA Chesapeake Bay Studies ($3.5 million):
Within the National Marine Fisheries Service, I urge the Committee to fully fund the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) at its FY 2006 level of $3.5 million for base funding – an increase of $1.6 million over the amount enacted in FY 2008. The Administration is requesting $3.4 million; however, $3.5 million is its historic level of funding and the minimum necessary to carry out NCBO's obligations under its authorizing statute, PL 107-372, and to support *Chesapeake 2000 agreement* goals. NCBO, funded through the National Marine Fisheries Service, contributes to the following activities toward the achievement of Bay restoration goals: oyster restoration, submerged aquatic vegetation restoration, blue crab research, multi-species fishery management modeling, development of parameters for an integrated assessment of the Bay's ecological health, technical support for local governments on land use planning, Chesapeake Bay observing network development, and education of teachers in the region about Chesapeake Bay. **I understand from Subcommittee staff that this is considered a programmatic request.**

II. Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Research ($5 million):
This past year's crab harvest was the worst ever in the recorded history of the Chesapeake Bay. Scientists in the Bay are finding too few juvenile crabs to replace the harvested population, and this could signal a crash in the fishery. Part of the on-going challenge of managing the blue crab is that science does not fully understand its movements, habitat use, or population ecology in the Chesapeake Bay. Research supported by NOAA is key to understanding how to refine state management of this highly valuable fishery. Uncertainties in fisheries science create uncertainties in a fisheries future. Within the National Marine Fisheries Service, I urge the Committee to fund Chesapeake Bay blue crab research at $5 million in FY 2009. This program was not funded in FY 2008 and not requested in the President's FY 2009 budget. **I understand this to be a project request.**

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III. Oyster Restoration Programs ($6 million):
Within the National Marine Fisheries Service, I urge the Committee to support native oyster restoration in both the Maryland and Virginia portions of the Chesapeake Bay. I request $2 million for oyster bar restoration in Maryland waters (214,000 more than was enacted in FY 2008), $2 million for oyster habitat restoration in Virginia (unfunded in FY 2008) and $2 million for native oyster aquaculture (unfunded in 2008). The development of native oyster aquaculture is critical to establishing a viable Chesapeake Bay commercial oyster fishery in the future. This request is $4,214,000 more than was appropriated in FY 2008; however, it reflects historic levels of funding and is about *$2 million less* than appropriated in FY 2006. The FY 2008 funding level included funding only for Maryland's oyster restoration efforts, but both the problem and its potential solutions exist in the waters of both states because of differences in management and water conditions (such as salinity, which affects the prevalence of disease) throughout the Bay. **I understand this to be project request.**

IV. Chesapeake Bay Multi-Species Fisheries Management ($500,000):
Within the National Marine Fisheries Service, I urge support for the ecosystem-based fisheries management initiative that includes funding for critical fisheries science and management needs in Chesapeake Bay. The FY 2009 President's Budget Request includes a request to fund this project at $500,000. This project is the core of developing an integrated assessment for the health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, tying water quality to responses in living resources in the Bay, including commercially and recreationally important fish populations. This program is consistent with the authorization under PL 107-372, which requires the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office to (1) provide technical assistance in (A) assessing the processes that shape the Chesapeake Bay system and affect its living resources; (B) identifying technical and management alternatives for the restoration and protection of living resources and the habitats they depend upon; and (C) monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of management plans. The development of an integrated assessment was a key recommendation of the Government Accountability Office in its October 2005 report: *Chesapeake Bay Program: Improved Strategies are Needed to Better Assess, Report, and Manage Restoration Progress.* **I understand this to be a project request.**

V. Funding for National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS):
Within the National Ocean Service, I urge the committee to fund NCCOS system to the maximum extent possible, because these facilities conduct critical research and monitoring that informs complex coastal management systems around the nation. Through this program, the State of Maryland participates in Joint Enforcement Agreements with NOAA for enforcement of fisheries regulations. NCCOS also supports NOAA activities at the Oxford Cooperative Laboratory in Oxford, Maryland, which provide critical research on fisheries health and ecosystem markers for the integrated assessment of Bay restoration efforts recommended by the GAO in its October 2005 report. **I understand this to be a programmatic request.**

VI. Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoys ($1 million):
Within the National Ocean Service, I urge the Committee to increase support from FY 2008 funding with $553,500 in additional funds for the continued deployment, operation and maintenance of this unique set of buoys to assess Bay health, serve as trail markers and guideposts for the newly established and authorized Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, and provide interpretive information for both trail users and educators in the region. These buoys will also be components of a Chesapeake Bay Observing System, a subregional component of the Integrated Ocean Observing System being developed nationally. The buoys are monitoring and will monitor water quality and a range of environmental factors necessary for Chesapeake Bay partners to understand whether or not

restoration goals are met and maintained for the length of time necessary for the Bay to be de-listed from the impaired water body list under the Clean Water Act. **I understand this to be a project request.**

VII. NOAA Funding Goal of $4.5 Billion:
I would like to express my strong support for NOAA and the critical work done by this agency. As a cochair of the House Oceans Caucus, I have signed on to a joint Member letter of support for this funding level for NOAA. The science conducted through NOAA helps make the US competitive in international technology and continues to improve our understanding—and therefore better management of—our ocean and coastal resources. Progress is being made toward a funding level for NOAA which can adequately support all NOAA programs, and it is my hope that we will be able to make further progress toward a total funding level of $4.5 billion this fiscal year, despite budget limitations. **I understand this to be a programmatic request.**

VIII. Virginia Trawl Survey ($500,000):
Within the National Marine Fisheries Service, I urge the Committee to consider this request for $500,000 for the Virginia Trawl Survey. This survey provides the longest time series of fisheries monitoring data in the Chesapeake Bay. Data from this effort are used by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and other fisheries managers to assess fishery resources in the Bay. **I understand this to be a project request.**

IX. National Science Foundation ($7.326 Billion):
I have joined several of my colleagues in supporting a funding level for the National Science Foundation's FY 2009 appropriations at $7.326 billion. Supporting the NSF is key to maintaining our pre-eminence in science and technology. NSF investments are aimed at the frontiers of science and engineering, where advances in fundamental knowledge drive innovation, progress, and productivity. In 2007, a pathway was established to double the budget of NSF over the course of 10 years. This pathway was accelerated by overwhelming support for the COMPETES Act, which was signed into law in August 2007. However, funding for NSF fell short of the ten-year doubling path in both the FY 2007 and FY 2008 appropriations cycles. Cumulatively, NSF was funded $500 million $500 million below the request in the past two years. Our request--as authorized by the COMPETES Act--adds this amount to the funding requested for NSF by the Administration in FY 2009 in order to restore these deficits. Our request will put the NSF back on its doubling path. **I understand this is a programmatic request.**

X. Harford County Public Safety Network ($365,000.00):
I am requesting $365,000 from the Law Enforcement Technology account within the Fiscal Year 2009 C-J-S Appropriations Bill to purchase and implement equipment designed to expand the interoperability capabilities of the Harford County Public Safety Network. By enhancing interoperable communications capabilities, Harford County can improve its ability to protect its residents, as well as public safety personnel. The Public Safety Network Upgrades project will be implemented throughout Harford County, including the 1st, 2nd, and 6th Congressional Districts. **I understand this to be a project request.**

Finally, I want to stress the importance of a robust national budget for science and management of our oceans and coastal resources. As we begin to learn about the basic functioning of these fragile ecosystems, we are increasingly challenged by climate change and large-scale environmental changes in ocean and coastal systems. With more than half the US population living along our coasts, and the potential for another active hurricane season looming in the near future, *we cannot afford to short-change NOAA "wet" programs, even in the face of rising costs of other national science priorities.*

Thank you for consideration of my requests and those of my colleagues throughout the Chesapeake watershed. If you have any questions please have your staff contact Edith Thompson (x5-5311).

Sincerely,

Wayne T. Gilchrest

Wayne T. Gilchrest
Member of Congress

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well in addition to the gentleman's cogent remarks on the necessity for spending money to protect the environment generally, his request in his testimony here today cites ten specific funding entities which is a measure of not only his interest, but his knowledge of the topic. We very much value your testimony here today. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I do not think there has been a stronger advocate in Congress on behalf of the Chesapeake over the years. I know all of us would like to thank you for that advocacy and for your service. Also, like Mr. Farr, you have been a strong advocate for a strategy relative to our oceans. We commend you for that.

Mr. GILCHREST. Thank you, Rodney. Is your son still at Washington College?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. He graduated, thank you anyway.

Mr. GILCHREST. Oh, he graduated.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Yes, last year.

Mr. GILCHREST. I thought he was in his second semester. I guess that has been a few years since I saw you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. That has been a few years. But you did that excellent presentation at Washington College, which I attended. I think that was at the inauguration of the President, was it not?

Mr. GILCHREST. You know, I forget. It was some event.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. It was not a graduation.

Mr. GILCHREST. No, I think it was——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Because I only went to one of those and you were not there.

Mr. GILCHREST. I think it was the start of the new school year, something like that.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Maybe. I thought it was his inauguration, but maybe it was not.

Mr. GILCHREST. It could have been, because we get——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well you did an excellent job.

Mr. GILCHREST. Thank you, Alan.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. You did an excellent job. Yes, he has graduated and is no longer receiving a stipend. It is great.

Mr. GILCHREST. Okay. God bless him. Thanks, fellows.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Wayne. Thank you for your good service, generally. Next the Committee would like to welcome Mr. Michael J. Coast with the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center. Mr. Coast, welcome to the hearing.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

MEP

WITNESS

MICHAEL COAST, PRESIDENT, MICHIGAN MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Mr. COAST. Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to appear today. I am Mike Coast, President of the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, the Michigan MET. I am also the Chairman of the American Small Manufacturers Coalition, the trade association that represents the manufacturing extension

partnership centers. There are fifty-nine of those around the country. I testify today to request funding of $122 million for the MEP Program in the Department of Commerce through the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The situation facing small and medium sized manufacturers is dire and the President's proposed elimination of federal funding for MEP would affect them. MEP centers have proven over the past decade or more that they can help these smaller manufacturers succeed. In a typical recent year national impact data shows that improving for eight in ten companies with a cost savings of $1.1 billion helping the companies serve to add or retain nearly $6.8 billion in sales and 52,000 jobs, and $1.6 billion in additional investments. These national numbers matter to our economy and to your communities. Here are some district level impacts for the most recent year.

In West Virginia's 1st Congressional District companies served by the West Virginia MEP credits their projects with $13.2 million in sales, 113 jobs, $550,000 in cost savings and $947,000 in new investments. In New Jersey's 11th Congressional District clients credit the New Jersey MEP with helping them add $22.1 million in sales, 320 jobs, reduced costs by $3.7 million, and $6.4 million in investments.

Congress recognized the effectiveness of the MEP program last year when it passed the America Competes Act. That legislation foresaw the need not only to maintain but to grow MEP. Under the Act, the MEP's federal funding would rise from its recent $106 million annual level to $122 million in fiscal year 2009.

Despite MEP's track record of impact and efficiency, and ignoring the will of Congress, the President now proposes the virtual elimination of federal funding for MEP. One can debate what the precise effect of this would be but the main outcomes are beyond dispute: many centers would close, the rest would shrink significantly partly because many states support the centers explicitly in the form of matching funds that could be withdrawn if federal funding were to end. Some have argued the smaller manufacturers could go out and buy services similar to those offered by MEP clients from private sector consulting firms. But history shows that without some public funding to offset the cost and outreach of sales, consultants shy away from all but the best deal to these small companies.

With your help, however, the nation can avoid this sharp reduction in services to small manufacturers. By turning back the President's proposal and returning to the support levels authorized by the America Competes Act the Congress can save MEP and help it grow. MEP is the country's only national program created specifically to help U.S. small manufacturing base and preserve its nearly 10 million good jobs. At this moment of grave risk to manufacturing and the rest of the economy, MEP brings otherwise unavailable technical expertise to tens of thousands of struggling U.S. companies.

In closing, I urge you on behalf of my center and the fifty-eight other centers of the MEP network, and the nearly 340,000 small to mid-sized manufacturers across the nation, to act to restore full funding to MEP. Also included in this testimony is a list of companies who have worked with us recently. There are thirty-nine from

West Virginia's 1st District. There are fifty-four from New Jersey's 11th District. And one success story from each one of the members' home districts. So thank you very much.

[Testimony of Michael J. Coast, President of Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center.]

Testimony of Michael J. Coast to the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, April 2nd, 2008

Chairman Mollohan, Congressman Frelinghuysen, and Members of the Subcommittee – Thank you for this opportunity to appear today. I am Michael J. Coast, President of the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, Michigan's affiliate of the national Manufacturing Extension Partnership. I am also the current Chairman of the American Small Manufacturers Coalition, the trade association of the 59 MEP centers. I testify today to request funding of $122 million for the MEP program of the Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The situation facing small and medium-sized US manufacturers is dire, and the President's proposed elimination of federal funding for MEP would unnecessarily aggravate that situation.

There are 30,000 fewer small and medium-sized manufacturing plants in the US today than there were a decade ago. In Michigan, there were 16,000 such facilities in 1998; today, there are barely 13,000. Thanks to increased imports of both manufactured products and their parts, US manufacturing value-added is essentially unchanged over the past decade; in my state of Michigan, it is quite clearly lower.

This is not some long-term decline analogous to the job losses in agriculture over the past century. In agriculture, employment fell because of rising productivity, but real output grew, and continues to grow. No, in manufacturing, the issue is the failure of many small and medium-sized companies to perform well enough to withstand the competitive pressures of a globalized economy in which the US operations of most of their traditional customers are no longer growing. With the sharp slowdown in economic activity that began last October, the situation has become even more difficult. US manufacturing employment has plunged from 17.6 million in 1998 to less than 13.7 million today. Since last August, manufacturing has been losing an average of 60,000 jobs a month, a sharp reversal after a four-year period of relative stability.

MEP centers have proven over the past decade or more that they can help these smaller manufacturers succeed despite this challenging landscape. In a typical recent year, National MEP centers' clients credit their services with:

- Improving productivity for eight in ten companies, with cost savings totaling $1.1 billion;
- Helping the companies served to add or retain nearly $6.8 billion in sales and 52 thousand jobs; and
- Inducing those companies to make more than $1.6 billion in additional investments.

These national numbers matter to our economy and to your communities. Here are some district-level impacts for the most recent year of impact survey data:

- In West Virginia's first congressional district, companies served by the West Virginia MEP credit their projects with $13.2 million in new or retained sales, 112 jobs, $550,000 in cost savings, and $947,000 in new investments.
- In New Jersey's 11th congressional district, clients credit the New Jersey MEP with helping them add or retain $22.1 million in sales, create or retain 320 jobs, reduce costs by $3.7 million, and make $6.4 million in additional investments.

In my home state of Michigan, my center's clients credit us with more than $100 million in new and retained sales, 956 jobs, $18 million in cost savings, and more than $30 million in induced investment.

As their traditional customers globalize, smaller manufacturers have found that they need to do more than improve quality and reduce costs to remain competitive. The MEP network has responded by developing or partnering to acquire new services that help them seek out new customers; evaluate new markets and product concepts; and improve the way they develop and launch new products. Indeed, MEP's new catchword is "20/20" – expressing that smaller manufacturers need not just 20% lower costs, but also 20% top-line growth. At the Michigan MEP center, services related to new customers, new markets, and new products have grown from almost nothing to about 15% of our total service portfolio. By 2010, I expect that they will exceed 25% of what we do with our clients.

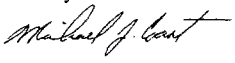
Congress recognized the effectiveness of the MEP program last year when it passed the America COMPETES Act. That legislation foresaw the need not only to maintain, but to grow, MEP. Under the Act, MEP's federal funding would rise from its recent $104-106-million annual level to $122 million for FY 2009, with further increases in FY 2010 and FY 2011.

Despite MEP's track record of impact and efficiency, and ignoring the will of the Congress, the President now proposes the virtual elimination of federal funding for MEP. One can debate what the precise effect of this would be, but the main outcomes are beyond dispute. Many centers would close. The rest would shrink significantly, partly because many states' support for the centers is explicitly in the form of matching funds that could be withdrawn if federal funding were to end. Some have argued that smaller manufacturers could go out and buy services similar to those offered by the MEP centers from private sector consulting firms. But history shows that, without some public funding to offset the cost of outreach and sales, consultants shy away from all but the best-heeled small companies. And that's only logical: without public funds, my center and most others would also have no choice but to focus on larger manufacturers.

With your help, however, the nation can avoid this sharp reduction in services to smaller manufacturers. By turning back the President's proposal and returning to the support levels authorized by the America COMPETES Act, the Congress can save MEP and help it grow. MEP is the country's only nation program created specifically to help the US small manufacturing base and preserve its nearly 10 million good jobs. At this moment of grave risk to manufacturing and the rest of the economy, MEP brings otherwise unavailable technical expertise to tens of thousands of struggling US companies.

In closing, I urge you – on behalf of my center, the other 58 centers of the MEP network, and the nearly 340,000 small and medium-sized manufacturers across the nation -- to act to restore full funding to MEP.

Thank you.



West Virginia Companies – FCD 1
Automated Packaging Systems
B Machine Products
Criterion Catalysts and Tech. L. P.
Criterion Inc.
CWS Company
Dawnview Center
Dyna-Mix
Europtec USA (formerly Eagle Glass)
FMW Composites
Graftech
Hinchcliff Lumber
Impress USA
Kreinik Manufacturing Co. Inc.
Laser Processing
Leveltek Incorporated
Matthews International
Metso
Nolan Industrial Coatings Incorporated
Ohio Valley Scale
Philips Lighting Co.
Precision Tool and Machine
Preston Cty Sheltered Workshop Inc.
Pro Stainless Inc.
Ruskin Manufacturing
SFK Pulp
Shutler Cabinets
SimEx
Simply Sparse Technologies
Snyder Industries
Stockmeier Urethanes
Swanson Industries Inc.
Teknetix Incorporated
TETRA Technologies
Thermo Gauge Instruments Inc.
Tri-State Electric & Machine Co. Inc.
Warwood Armature Repair Company
White Guitars
Wilson Works
Ziegenfelder Company Inc.

New Jersey Companies – FCD 11
A M E Corp
Accurate Screw Machine Products Co. Inc
Anderol Company
Arlington Machine & Tool Company
Bel-Art Products
Brooklyn Cheesecake & Desserts
Camfil Farr Inc.
Catbridge Machinery
Coherent Crystal Associates Inc.
Control Products Inc.
Control Screening LLC
Convertech Inc
Cortegra Group Inc.
Croll Reynolds Inc.
Douglas Electrical Components
Drive-Master Co. Inc.
E P Medsystems Inc
Ethicon Inc.
F P I Thermoplastic Technologies
Fisher Scientific Company L.L.C.
Four Star Reproduction Inc
G E Aviation
General Wire & Stamping Co. Inc
Green Power Chemical Sciences
International Foodsource
Johanson Manufacturing Corp.
Lamtec Corp.
Linker Machines
Mechanical Institute Company
Middle Atlantic Products
Millipore Corporation
National Manufacturing Co Inc
North Jersey Media Group
Norwalt Design Inc.
Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical
Packaging Associates Automation Inc.
Parker Hannifin Corp.
Plastiform Packaging Inc
Quest Int'l. Fragrances USA Inc
R E M Manufacturing Inc
R S Microwave Co. Inc
Raritan Valley Community College
RHM Technology Inc
Rockline Industries
Roysons Corporation
San Rallo Pasta Company
Sensor Scientific Inc
Service Metal Fabricating
Siemens Building Technologies
Somerset Wood Products Company
Stone Truss Systems Inc
TechFlex Inc.
V & L Machine and Tool Co. Inc.
Waveline Inc.

Success Story Summaries, by Members' Districts

CWS Company, (Div. of Swanson Industries) (West Virginia - Cong. Mollohan)
- CWS has in-house build and test abilities to provide the fastest delivery of a variety of hydraulic components.
- MEP helped in the implementation of an ISO 9000:2000 Quality Management System.
- Results include a reduction in returned goods 5% and increased productivity by 50%, leading to an increase in sales by $10,800 daily.

Caperton Furnitureworks (West Virginia – Cong. Mollohan)
- Caperton Furnitureworks is in a very competitive industry that must constantly strive to reduce and control overhead and operating costs, while keeping pace with foreign competition.
- WVMEP helped develop an energy reduction and management program.
- Results include recommended changes to energy consuming systems, leading to an immediate $23,300 in annual savings.

Johanson Manufacturing (New Jersey – Cong. Freylinghusen)
- A family-owned and -operated manufacturer of precision electronic and fiber optic product
- MEP helped provide a number of employee training and implementation programs including lean.
- Results include immediate savings of $60,000, additional sales of $6.1 million over the next 18 months and 12 jobs with the possibility of 6 additional jobs created.

Colonial Mills Inc. (Rhode Island – Cong. Kennedy)
- CMI has 150 employees in their Pawtucket, Rhode Island, facility where the company produces thousands of square feet of braided products per day
- MEP helped CMI address speed to market issues.
- Results include delivery time reduced from 25 to 5 days, guaranteeing a 30-day delivery, reduced inventory levels by 30%, and increased productivity 15%.

Alcore Inc. (Maryland – Cong. Ruppersberger)
- Alcore's products are used in aircraft control surfaces and flooring and engine enclosures, as well as in space and satellite components.
- MEP helped find ways to reduce phosphorous, an environmental pollutant, from its wastewater discharge.
- Results include projected Annual savings of $74,200.

Coherent (California – Cong. Honda)
- World's leader in photonics, supplying laser systems, components, laser measurement, control products, and precision optics to over 80 countries
- MEP helped implement a lean manufacturing culture.
- Results include $1.5 million in cost savings, retained sales of $8.7 million, investments of $634,000 and lead time reduction of 22%.

Engineering Specialties Inc. (Connecticut – Cong. DeLauro)
- Engineering Specialties manufactures metal stampings and mechanical assemblies, primarily for the automotive industry.
- MEP assisted in implementing an ISO TS 16949 program.
- Engineering Specialties successfully received ISO TS 16949 certification, retained 10 jobs, retained a major customer and increased efficiency.

Potters Industries Inc (North Carolina – Cong. Price)
- PII is the world's largest facility for turning recycled glass into beads of engineered glass materials serving the highway safety, polymer additive, metal finishing, and conductive particle markets.
- MEP helped implement an ISO 9000 program.
- PII successfully received ISO 9000 certification.

American Medical Identifications (Texas – Cong. Culberson)

- AMI serves the international medical community and general public by offering quality medical identification products.
- MEP was called in to conduct an assessment and recommend operational improvements.
- Results include $1 million in cost savings, inventory reduction of 30%, reduced work in process and a 20% increase in internet orders.

Stidham Cabinet Inc (Kentucky – Cong. Rogers)

- The family-owned and -operated business recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and is a fabricator of high-quality custom, commercial and residential cabinets and countertops.
- MEP was contacted to provide an objective third-party assessment and recommend improvements
- Results include an improved profit margin, increased revenue, cost savings of $35,000 and an improved work environment

Mary Ann's Specialty Foods Inc (Iowa – Cong. Latham)

- Mary Ann's processes meat into cold-packed configurations for customers that sell to the larger retail grocery chains in the United States.
- MEP helped answer key waste treatment and plant renovation questions and helped Mary Ann's remain compliant with stringent food safety regulations.
- Results include an increase in sales by $155,000, cost savings of $80,000, 4 additional jobs, and a $165,000 investment in plant and equipment.

Sunshine Mills (Alabama – Cong. Aderholt)

- The family-owned company produces over 600 million pounds of dry food and pet treats.
- MEP helped sunshine reduce on-the-job injuries.
- Results include $500,000 in cost savings, a 60% reduction in occupational injuries and illnesses and helped reduce workers' compensation costs by 40% and employee turnover by 20%.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Coast.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you, Mr. Coast, you have done your homework. Next time Iowa.

Mr. COAST. Well we would be delighted to give the Congressman from Iowa the impacts of the center there. And it is a fine center, and I know they work very well with the twenty-nine community colleges there.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you. Next the Committee would like to welcome Pam Johnson with the National Corn Growers Association.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Latham.

Mr. LATHAM. Yeah, I just wanted to——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Okay, I recognize Mr. Latham.

Mr. LATHAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to give a special greeting to Pam. She is a great friend of mine. She is a farmer, extremely active, obviously with the Corn Grower's Association both in Iowa and nationally, but she truly is a leader in agriculture nationwide. So just a real pleasure to have you here, Pam.

Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you.

Mr. LATHAM. I look forward to your testimony.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, we are pleased to have you and we are pleased to have you introduced by Mr. Latham. Welcome.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NATIONAL PLANT GENOME PROJECT

WITNESS

PAM JOHNSON, CHAIR, RESEARCH AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACTION TEAM, NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you very much, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am a farmer from Iowa. I operate a green and livestock farm with my husband and two sons. But I am here today representing corn growers for the National Corn Growers Association where I serve as Chair of the Research and Business Development Action Team.

NCGA's top priority in this appropriations bill is the Plant Genome Research Program at the National Science Foundation. And we are not asking for an increase in funding this year, but we are asking for your help to maintain the integrity of the Plant Genome Research Program by keeping the focus of the appropriation on agronomically important plant species.

This was the original intent and mandate of the program. In 1997 NCGA spearheaded the effort on legislation that authorized major plant genome research. Senators Bond and Mikulski were the lead sponsors and as Senator Bond said, "The goal is to provide funding for the sequencing of economically important crops to make sure these crops would have a solid foundation to accelerate crop improvement." Arabidopsis was the model plant that was sequenced because it had a simpler and smaller genome size at the beginning, and rice was next. Lessons were learned sequencing these smaller plant genomes and then it was not feasible in time

to sequence corn. The National Science Foundation said, "The time has come to transfer the knowledge gained in a model system to uncover basic mechanisms underlying important traits in plants of economic important."

In 2005 NSF, the FDA, and DOE awarded $29.5 million to sequence the corn genome. A consortium of four research institutions was selected, Wash U. in St. Louis, the University of Arizona, Iowa State University, and Cold Spring Harbor Lab in New York. On February 28, 2008 this consortium announced the release of the draft sequence. A press release announced, "A team of scientists led by Wash U has begun to unlock the genetic secrets of corn, a crop that is vital to U.S. agriculture. The researchers have completed a working draft of the genome. This will accelerate efforts to develop better crop variety to meet society's growing demands for food, livestock feed, and fuel." Rick Wilson, the lead investigator of the project at Wash U. said, "This first draft of the genome sequence is exciting because it is the first comprehensive glimpse at the blueprint for the corn plant. Corn is a vitally important crop. Scientists will now be able to accurately and efficiently probe the genome."

This is good news. This high quality genetic map is a foundation and the first step in creating a robust pipeline of scientific knowledge and innovation on a pathway to application and crop improvement. This is historical. A quantum leap on a trajectory that leads to understanding the functional genomic components of corn. Next steps will be to use this map to identify which genes lead to specific traits in the plant and the seed. The corn sequence will help in the completion of other major crop genomes, including wheat, sorghum, and barley.

This research is in the public domain. Public and private sectors have free access and will be able to expedite breeding programs. Access to this information encoded in the corn genome will improve water and nitrogen efficiencies, help plants cope with challenges from disease, pests and weather, and allow us to tailor the crops we grow to specific end users. This means sustainability for farmers in rural communities. Consumers will benefit from more abundant and sustainable food, feed, and fuel supplies. Genetic research will enable the improvement in efficiencies of corn to ethanol and lignocellulosics to ethanol and will help develop additional products that are plant based, biodegradable, and better for the environment. We believe that we are on the cusp of the next green revolution.

We celebrate the great accomplishments of this program, however we have great concern over the future funding that will keep economically important plant species a priority. In 2008 the Plant Genome Research budget was $101.22 million and the Arabidopsis, the model plant, 2010 requires a yearly funding of $25 million. In the fiscal year 2009 budget proposed by the National Science Foundation plans to move the Plant Genome Research Program and the Arabidopsis 2010 into a new subcategory within the NSF budget structure. If the additional burden of funding the model systems is added to this budget restructuring, critical research for corn, wheat, soybeans, and other important crops will be reduced by 25

percent, effectively stopping new research programs for agronomically significant species.

It is critical that both these activities remain separate and receive enough support to achieve their goals. So in conclusion NCGA requests that this Subcommittee include in the fiscal year 2009 appropriations bill language that will secure the $101.22 million for the National Plant Genome Budget. This will be applied exclusively to species of economic importance, keeping in line with the original intent of the program. This effort is especially critical now at this time in history when the growing global population looks to corn and other plants to supply food, feed, bioenergy, and biobased products. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I would be glad to take any questions.

[Testimony of Pam Johnson, National Corn Growers.]

Written Testimony of
Pam Johnson
Chair, Research and Business Development Action Team
National Corn Growers Association
April 2, 2008

Before the
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

Regarding
Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Priorities

Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations priorities. I am Pam Johnson, from Floyd, IA, and I operate a grain and livestock farm in partnership with my husband and two sons. I am also the Chair of the Research and Business Development Action Team for the National Corn Growers Association.

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) is a national organization founded in 1957 and represents more than 32,000 members in 48 states, 47 affiliated state organizations and more than 300,000 corn farmers who contribute to state check-off programs for the purpose of creating new opportunities and markets for corn growers.

NCGA's top priority in the FY2009 Science, State, Justice and Commerce appropriations bill is maintaining funding and focus of the $101.22 million for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Plant Genome Research Initiative (initiative). The initiative is supported by the Interagency Working Group on Plant Genomes under the auspices of the National Science and Technology Council within the Office of Science and Technology Policy. In 1997, NCGA spearheaded the effort on legislation that authorized major plant genome research, which resulted in the Plant Genome Research Initiative. Obtaining genome sequence information frequently leads to breakthroughs in the study of a particular organism. The goal of the initiative is to understand the structure and function of plant genes at all levels in species of economic importance and indeed, the initiative has led to an unprecedented increase in our understanding of the genomics and genetics of plants. The initiative also changed the way research is conducted in plant

biology and helped to attract a new generation of scientists to the plant sciences field at U.S. colleges and universities.

Bringing agriculturally important plant species into the genomic age is an important goal. Initial major accomplishments included the completion of the model laboratory plant Arabidopsis and rice genome sequences. Completion on those genomes demonstrated that genomic sequence was the most comprehensive way toward gene discovery - a first step toward identifying the role of each gene. Building upon lessons learned sequencing smaller plant genomes, sequencing the corn genome became feasible. Arabidopsis, a member of the *brassicaceae,* or mustard, family, has a genome of 125 million base pairs. Rice's genome has 430 million base pairs. Sequencing the corn genome had been considered difficult because of its large size and complex genetic arrangement. The genome has 50,000 genes scattered among the haploid genome size of 2.3 billion nucleotides- molecules that form DNA - that make up its 10 chromosomes.

In 2004, valuable corn research was made available through NCGA to research scientists working to understand the maize genome through the availability of sequencing data from Ceres, DuPont and Monsanto. This information, combined with the corn sequence data already in the public domain, significantly accelerated the identification of genes within the entire corn genome and was a precursor to the effect that the full corn sequence will have on the research community.

In 2005, NSF, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) awarded $29.5 million to sequence the corn genome. NSF selected a consortium of four research institutions to sequence the maize genome: The University of Arizona, Washington University in St. Louis, Iowa State University in Ames and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Cold Spring Harbor, New York. The goal of the Maize Genome Sequencing Project is to unravel the DNA sequence of the maize plant and to identify the genes and begin to determine their position on the chromosomes - the tiny bundles of DNA that form the storage units of genetic information. The sequencing of corn pushed the state of the art of genetic research to new levels as its genome has complexities beyond any plant sequenced to date. The highly repetitive regions of DNA, formerly considered "junk" DNA, are extremely prevalent in corn, and have been shown to have a significant impact on how the genetic engine of life truly works. These issues have posed significant challenges to researchers interested in crop improvement, plant molecular biology, or genome evolution. Using a physical map that covers about 95 per cent of the maize genome map, scientists generate a draft sequence to reveal the locations of regulatory elements within stretches of so-called non-coding "junk" DNA. Focus of the project does center on gene-containing regions and are sequenced in detail. This sequencing strategy enables the consortium to sequence the corn genome at a fraction of the cost that was necessary to decipher the human genome, which is only slightly larger than the corn genome.

Today, genomic research technology and techniques are ready to complete a high quality corn genome sequence. The result will be the complete sequence and structural understanding of the entire corn genome, annotated functional sequences, and their locations on corn's genetic and physical map. This genome will be the most complex eukaryotic genome to be sequenced to date, including the human genome. The corn genome sequence will, in turn, help in the eventual completion of other major crop genome sequences, as itself benefited from knowledge gained

through the prior completion of other genome sequences. Corn will also serve as a model system to aid in elucidating clues to improve the growth and development of other related grass crops, such as wheat, sorghum, millet and barley. Importantly, access to all of this information is shared through GenBank, Gramine, MazeGDB and other public repositories for genome-sequence data.

With focused funding, we will be much closer to achieving the goal of this initiative – understanding the structure and function of all economically significant plant genes. The corn industry, including the academic research community, grain handlers, growers, and seed companies, supported the corn genome sequencing project and will continue to support a program that maintains its focus on discovering the functionality of genes in economically important plant species. A complete corn genome sequence and the application of its information will provide a wide range of benefits. Both the public and private sectors will be able to expedite their breeding programs and increase their knowledge of corn's important agronomic traits. Corn growers will be able to plant varieties of corn that are better suited to market and environmental needs, such as pest resistant traits, lower nitrogen needs, and higher yields – all increasing sustainability. Quality researchers will continue to be attracted to the field of plant genomics and genetics.

Consumers will also benefit from more abundant and sustainable food, feed and fuel supplies. Corn is not only grown for food and feed, it is converted to a myriad of processed food products - literally thousands of products in the typical supermarket contain corn. Improvements aim at increasing yield and nutritional value and optimizing the properties crucial for grain products such as flour and pasta. The production of corn-based products with enhanced nutritional value that are safer and less allergenic will directly benefit consumers.

Corn is also an important material for many industrial purposes and products including rubber, plastics, fuel and clothing. Corn is a model system for studying complex genomic structure, organization and function and its high quality genetic map will serve as the foundation for studies that may lead to improved biomass and bioenergy resources from corn and related plant species.

The request for the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) is $675.06 million, and increase of $63.04 million, or 10%, over the FY2008 request of $612.02 million. The Directorate for Biological Sciences supports research, infrastructure, and education in the biological sciences at U.S. colleges, universities, non-profit research institutions, and other research and education organizations.

BIO includes a sub-activity request for Plant Genome Research (PGR) of $101.22 million, an amount that does not contemplate an increase from the FY2008 request. PGR sub-activity was initiated in FY1998 as a stand alone budget managed by Biological Infrastructure (DBI). In general, 36 percent of the PGR portfolio is available for new research grants. The remaining 64 percent is used primarily to fund continuing grants made in previous years. PGR supports research in agronomic significant species. However, the FY2009 budget proposes to roll PGR into the Integrated Organismal Systems (IOS) sub-activity, potentially causing the program to lose focus. Rolling the PGR budget into IOS will result in a significant reduction in funds

available for new genetic projects in economically important species as the needs of non-agricultural plants would be served from the same budget. The FY2009 budget also proposes to roll Arabidopsis 2010 into the IOS sub-activity. It is important to note that model systems research such as this project, has been traditionally supported through NSF's core budget and not PGR or IOS. This change may result in a reduction of resources available for economically significant plants, such as continued work on new projects involving the rice genome and future new project stemming from corn genome work, during flat budget cycles. The Arabidopsis 2010 project and the NSF's independent Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP) complement each other and provide a broad base of support for the plant biology research community. Arabidopsis 2010 has traditionally received up to $25 million per year. It is critical that both activities remain separate and receive enough support to achieve their goals.

Maintaining and improving upon the resources available for crop systems is now more important than ever, as agriculture tries to meet the demands of consumers worldwide by providing a safe and secure supply of resources for human and animal nutrition, fiber, bioenergy, and industrial feeds. Continued strong governmental support of basic agricultural research is essential to ensure that the innovation pipeline remains robust. NCGA requests that this subcommittee include in the FY2009 Science, State, Justice and Commerce appropriations bill language that secures the $101.22 million PGR budget to be applied exclusively to species of economic importance, keeping in line with the original intent of the program. Thank you again Mr. Chairman for allowing NCGA to testify today. I would be happy to entertain any questions you may have for me.

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Biography
April 2008

Pam Johnson is a farmer from Iowa, where she operates a grain and livestock farm in partnership with her husband and two sons. She is elected by her peers to represent corn growers at the state and national level. Johnson is an executive director of the Iowa Corn Promotion Board serving as immediate past chair. She is a delegate to the National Corn Growers Association and currently serves as chair of the Research and Business Development Action Team. Pam works with other corn grower leaders to formulate farm policy and advocate for research dollars to ensure a bright future for the next generation of farmers. She is also a member of the Trade Policy Advisory Team at the U.S. Grains Council.

Before farming full-time, Pam worked as a registered nurse. She graduated from Northwestern Hospital School of Nursing in Minneapolis. She has served as a volunteer in many commodity groups through the years and has become a strong advocate for agriculture and rural economic development issues on a local, state and national level. Iowa's farm community recently recognized Pam as the recipient of the 2006 Woman in Ag Award.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you very much for your testimony. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. It is good to have you back again.

Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you so much.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Latham.

Mr. LATHAM. Yeah, I just had a couple questions. Dr. Bement from the NSF was here and I specifically asked him about the merger, and asked if he could assure us that it would not suffer, your initiative, suffer with the merger. And he assured me. I do not always believe some of the assurances that happen around here, but could you just reiterate for the Committee's benefit the impact of this merger, combining the programs, and its affect on you at a time when we are trying to do so much research in bioenergy. What is your major concern and that of the corn growers?

Ms. JOHNSON. We have two big concerns. One, the first is loss of focus on that program for plants of economic importance when model plants are put into the same program. And more importantly, our concern is over the funding. As those plants are put together and the budgets are not increased, we really think that the program, the $101 million, will support the model programs instead of the intent of the budget at the beginning, which was to improve crop improvement in plants. So two, focus and funding, are our big concerns.

Mr. LATHAM. Okay, very good. Thank you very much, Pam. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Johnson. Next the Committee would like to welcome our colleague from Texas, Mr. Lampson. Mr. Lampson. And as a part of his presentation, Mr. Lampson is going to introduce Mr. Roger Mitchell, with the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. Mr. Mitchell, if you will join Congressman Lampson? Nick, welcome to the hearing.

Mr. LAMPSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. We appreciate your being here and we appreciate your bringing Mr. Mitchell with you.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NASA

WITNESS

HON. NICK LAMPSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. LAMPSON. It is a pleasure. Thank you all for having us and thank all of the Committee for letting us testify today for just a couple minutes about NASA funding. I represent the Johnson Space Center and have done so for more than nine years now. I am grateful to have a relationship that I consider to be special with the space community. Since my days as a physical science teacher back in the Apollo era I have really had a significant appreciation for NASA and its mission. And I know that not every member is as lucky as I am to have a gem like the Johnson Space Center to represent, but every member of this Committee has some direct involvement, some part of our nation's space program.

NASA operates in or purchases services from suppliers in nearly every state of the United States, all but four and I think they are working on those last four. With over 58,000 civil servants, and contractors, and 1500 suppliers, NASA's reach, obviously, into our communities is immense.

NASA is not just about sampling moon dust and traveling through the universe anymore. It is about what we are going to discover along the way. And our scientists and engineers and small businesses that they partner with develop new technologies every year that are saving and improving lives. And I do not mean just about the Tang and the cell phones that we have heard about in the past, but a year ago I underwent quadruple bypass surgery. Luckily my doctors were able to diagnose my condition and successfully treat me thanks to technology that has been invented by NASA. A search of NASA spin off website, and it is a magnificent website if you have not been to it, or any of the many books that are here, turns up thirty-five heart related inventions. Unbelievable. Dr. Michael DeBakey down in Houston partnered with NASA and invented a heart pump that was based on rocket engine flow. And there is a heart rate monitor, there is laser angioplasty, there is pacemaker. Even my eyes, when I had LASIK surgery, had something to do with an invention from NASA having to do with the docking mechanism of the shuttle to the space station. That was an invention that came about through a small business innovation research contract at Johnson Space Center. So NASA has gotten something like 6300 patents, which is one out of every 1000 since the patent office in 1790 began its work.

Well clearly the benefits that we received from our space program over the past fifty years or so have far outweighed our investment which was about now six-tenths of a percent of the nation's budget. And while we have assigned NASA greater responsibility in recent years its budget has not kept up with inflation. And when I introduced the Space Exploration Act in 2001 and again in 2003, I included new funding for NASA. And unfortunately we had implemented the vision for space exploration with not having new funding included. So on top of the new responsibilities without the new money, NASA spent some $2.3 billion on return to flight activities following the Columbia disaster by diverting funds from other vital NASA programs.

Well I am concerned about the state of NASA's budget and the administration's '09 request. The President's budget would not even fully cover the cost of inflation. I am disappointed that not only has NASA been consistently underfunded, but has been forced to shift funding within the agency, robbing aeronautics, for example, and earth science, to pay for science and exploration. We have been told that NASA will make do with the resources that are available. But there is too much at stake to just make do. I fear that we are going to be caught behind the eight ball, behind the curve, just like we did in 1957 with Sputnik.

So a strong NASA has widespread economic, scientific, educational, and inspirational impacts. For every job, direct space job, there are 4.4 others that are created. We have $98 billion put into the economy and 550,000 jobs in 2004 alone. So the far reaching impacts of the space economy is absolutely unquestionable.

With this in mind I ask for your consideration for including an additional $2 billion for NASA program in the '09 CJS Act. This investment would reimburse NASA for funds diverted away from vital activities due to underfunding and return to flight activities, as well as accelerate the Constellation Program, which is a vital program to our nation's economic and technological leadership. We know that based on Administrator Griffin's testimony earlier that we can, with $2 billion we can move Constellation from 2015 when it is supposed to come online to 2013, narrowing that gap which I think is important. The fact that NASA's '09 budget request includes $2.6 billion to request crew and cargo transportation services over five years is even more confounding. Because frankly I believe spending that money here at home to accelerate the development of Constellation is a lot better than giving that same amount of money to other nations that may be not as strong of allies, like Russia and China, as what they should be.

So again, I believe that this is not about the destination but it is what we will discover about our universe and ourselves long the way. We know that the mission will spur technology and business and improve our quality of life. We cannot do any of that with underfunding science. Funding for NASA brings us closer to amazing new discoveries, and is necessary to remain competitive in the 21st century. I know that we can afford this and I know that we cannot afford not to.

So with that, I want to introduce Bob Mitchell, who is a great leader in our community and a good friend of mine. He is the President of the Bay Area Houston Partnership, an economic partnership there. BAHEP is a leading booster of NASA in Texas. It runs a Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program called SATOP, about which he will now speak. SATOP helps small businesses who cannot afford to have a rocket scientist or an engineer on their staff to use their expertise and NASA technology to grow, create, or retain jobs and contribute to our economy. And the return on investment that this program has shown is absolutely incredible. I fully support this invaluable program and I ask for your support for it as well.

[Testimony of Congressman Nick Lampson.]

Congressman Nick Lampson
22nd Congressional District of Texas
Testimony before the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
April 2, 2008

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today about the need for increased NASA funding. As the representative of the Johnson Space Center for 9 years now, I am grateful to have a close relationship with the space community. Since my days as a physical science teacher during the Apollo era, I have had a profound appreciation for NASA's mission, responsibilities and capabilities. Now I know not every Member is lucky enough to represent a gem like JSC. But I would like to point out that every single Member on this subcommittee, and all but one on the full committee, represent our nation's space program in some way, and all of our constituents benefit from it. NASA operates in or purchases services from every nearly every state. With over 58,000 civil servants and contractors and 1500 suppliers, NASA's reach into our communities and local economies is immense.

NASA isn't just about sampling moon dust and traveling through our universe, but it's about what we will discover along the way. NASA's scientists and engineers, along with the thousands of small businesses across the country they partner with, develop new technologies every year that save and improve lives – and I don't mean just Tang and cell phones. One year ago I underwent quadruple bypass surgery. Luckily, my doctors were able to diagnose my condition before a heart attack and successfully treat me thanks to technology invented by NASA. A simple search on NASA's "Spinoff" website turns up 35 heart-related inventions since1976 which have no-doubt saved millions of lives world-wide. Dr. Michael DeBakey, a world-renowned heart surgeon from Houston, partnered with NASA to invent a heart pump – based on rocket engine flow - that is implanted in patients awaiting heart transplants. There's also the heart rate monitor, laser angioplasty, and the pacemaker. These are all common devices that we either have experience with or have family members whose lives have been saved by them. I was also fortunate to undergo LASIK surgery to correct my vision – an invention that came about through a Small Business Innovation Research Contract at the Johnson Space Center. NASA has been issued over 6,300 patents, nearly one in every thousand of all patents ever issued by the U.S. Patent Office since 1790.

Clearly, the benefits we have received from our space program over the past 50 years far outweigh our investment, which currently is only 0.6% of the Federal budget. Yet while we have assigned NASA greater responsibility in recent years, its budget has not kept pace with inflation. I am deeply concerned about the state of NASA's budget and the Administration's request for FY09 and over the next five years. The President's budget request would not even fully cover the cost of inflation next year. I am disappointed that not only has NASA been consistently under funded, but has been forced to shift funding within the agency – not only for return-to-flight and hurricane damage expenses, but this year NASA's budget proposal robs aeronautics and earth science to pay for science and exploration. We have been told that NASA will make do with resources available, but there is too much at stake to "make do". I fear if we

continue down this path of anemic funding we will once again be caught behind the curve as we were in 1957.

As the representative of Johnson Space Center, the home of the Astronaut Corp, I have long been a proponent of returning man to the moon and sending humans to Mars. In 2002 and 2003, I introduced the Space Exploration Act to set a new course for research and discovery for NASA. Much of this Act was incorporated into the President's 'Vision for Space Exploration'. Unfortunately, there were unforeseen circumstances which have strained NASA's budget. The agency incurred a total of $2.3 billion for Space Shuttle Return to Flight activities stemming from the Columbia disaster. Of this amount, $930 million was reallocated from other crucial NASA programs. Diverting these funds - primarily from Space Shuttle, Exploration and the International Space Station accounts - led to a reduction in science activities and research and development essential to the completion of the Constellation program. Because NASA did not have adequate funds for both Return to Flight and Exploration, we now face a widening space flight gap and a potentially dangerous reliance on other nations for access to space.

A strong NASA has widespread economic, scientific, educational, and inspirational impacts. For each direct space job, 4.4 other jobs are created. The nation's space economy contributed over $98 billion in economic activity and 550, 000 jobs to the American economy in 2004 alone. The far-reaching impact of the space economy on our nation is unquestionable, and I believe this infusion of funds will have an immediate impact resulting in a stronger economy both in the near-term and over the longer term.

NASA is not just the few thousand federal employees spread at 10 centers across the country, but it is also the tens of thousands of contractors and sub-contractors and the small businesses like those that partner with SATOP to develop a new product for the market. Each year NASA highlights some of its "Spinoff" products, but many Americans and Members of Congress are not aware of the everyday products we all benefit from – such as cell phones, GPS, accurate weather forecasting, even golf clubs – that are derived from NASA technology. Many people complain about spending money on the moon – but we aren't spending any money on the moon, we are spending it in Clear Lake, Texas, and in West Virginia, and New Jersey. NASA funding reaches our local communities, our small businesses, and our overall quality of live.

There is also the seemingly unquantifiable inspiration NASA has provided to generations of American children. This is not intangible though, as we all benefit from the inspiration and motivation of young men and women graduating with advanced math and science degrees in the next few years. But if we do not shorten the space flight gap we no doubt risk losing an entire generation of rocket scientists, planetary geologists, engineers, and astronauts. The mean age at NASA is 47. That means that about half of the current NASA workforce will be at or near retirement age over the next few years, and we will have a hard time replacing them.

A greater investment in NASA will help it address its long and short-term challenges. With all of this in mind, I ask for your consideration for including and additional $2 billion for NASA programs in the FY09 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Act. This investment would reimburse NASA for funds diverted away from vital activities due to under-funding and return-

to-flight activities. Administrator Griffin has also testified that an additional $2 billion would accelerate the completion of Constellation to 2013, thus reducing the space flight gap.

NASA's FY09 budget request includes $2.6 billion to purchase crew and cargo transportation services over five years. Frankly, I believe spending that money here at home to accelerate development of the Constellation program and shorten the space flight gap is a much better use of taxpayer dollars that would otherwise go to potentially unstable allies including Russia and China.

I believe it is not just about the destination, but what we will discover about our universe and ourselves along the way. We all know the mission will spur technology and business and improve our quality of life. But we cannot do any of that if we are under funding science. We will not have the answers we need to go further.

NASA pushes the boundaries of the final frontier, creating commerce, assisting with education, increasing our economic competitiveness, enhancing healthcare, monitoring climate change, improving weather forecasting, building stronger bonds with our allies, and ensuring the survival of the human race. Funding for NASA brings us closer to amazing new discoveries both at home and throughout our Universe, ensures our leadership in space and at home, and is necessary to remain a competitive in the 21st century. We CAN afford to do this – we CANNOT afford NOT to.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Mitchell, thank you. Thank you, Nick, for your testimony and for your introduction of Mr. Mitchell. Your written testimony will be made a part of the record and we look forward to your presentation.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

SPACE ALLIANCE TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH PROGRAM

WITNESS

ROBERT MITCHELL, PRESIDENT, BAY AREA HOUSTON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you. Thank you. Good morning. Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, my name is Bob Mitchell. I am the President of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, a nonprofit organization dedicated to stimulated the regional economic development in Houston, Texas. NASA's Innovative Partnership Program contracted with the Technological Research and Development Authority of Florida during 2002 to 2006 to administer the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program, SATOP as we call it, nationwide. The total request for 2009 is $4 million, of which Texas will receive about $600,000 of that.

Fifty years ago, President Dwight Eisenhower called for the creation of NASA, and driving that agency then was NASA's inspiration vision statement. "To improve life here, to extend life there, to find life beyond." I would like to talk to you today about a program that focuses on the vision's first compelling principle, and that is improving life here. SATOP Program is able to improve life here on earth.

Ten years ago, the small business community surrounding Johnson Space Center was able to partner with the SATOP Program. We have now run this program nationwide. It has involved a very powerful idea, and that is to harness the creative power of those companies involved in the space program and direct it to helping small companies here on earth to develop and market their products. The help that is provided is provided at no cost to those small businesses.

Mission Technologies, the small business in San Antonio built a compact aerial flight reconnaissance system, basically that a paratrooper can carry in a backpack. A paratrooper jumps out on top of a mountain, unpack the UAV, and within three minutes was flying and feeding real live video back to a command center. Once the mission was complete the paratrooper calls the UAV back, the parachute pops out. The UAV drops down, the paratrooper puts it back in his backpack and goes on to his next mission. The company needed help. The Army loved their product but it was just too heavy. So SATOP was able to help them reduce the overall weight of their launcher on that system from thirty-seven pounds to less than ten pounds. Not only were we able to help them do that but we were also able to help them realize that they did not need the fifty caliber firing mechanism that was required to launch the unit. Now what they have designed is basically a piece of surgical elastic, is what I would call it. The company has now delivered thirty-six units to the Army. In Texas alone, we have numerous success

stories like this. I provided about three or four of those in your package as well.

In 2001, federal funding was provided to establish a four state consortium, Texas, New York, New Mexico, and Florida, to help small businesses across the United States. Let me explain to you how it works. If you are a small business owner and you have a technical challenge but you cannot afford to go out and hire a contractor or an engineer, you submit a request to us and you have to meet one of these four requirements. Either a patent, a patented process, a drawing, or a prototype. Not all four, but one. If you can provide one of those what we will do is we will find an engineer in the aerospace community to give you forty free hours of service to solve your technical challenge. Once it is solved, it is a positive awareness is generated for all involved, including NASA. SATOP solves all types of challenges, from materials, electronics, mechanical. You name it, we do it. The only thing that we do not touch is the software issues.

SATOP has proven it can accelerate the transfer of space knowledge to the private sector and has become an incredible economic development tool. In 1998, Texas began with six aerospace companies locally providing up to 3,000 hours free. The four, state consortium now has fifty alliance partners committing over 43,000 hours to this program. And let me point out again, these hours are provided free to the small business owners.

Since 2003, SATOP has received more than 1,900 requests from forty-six states. And we have assisted successfully 82 percent of those, creating more than 1,300 jobs. But most importantly, most importantly, for every $1 invested, $23 will return in positive economic impact and job creation.

In closing Mr. Chairman and distinguished members, the Space Alliance Technology Program has taken the best of our space program and made it available at no cost to developing small companies, allowing them to grow and hire. We are providing and improving life here on earth. Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership together with the four regional centers is proud to be a part of this unique, highly successful program and look forward to being able to continue the job creation and benefits. Thank you for listening to me this morning.

[Testimony of Robert "Bob" Mitchell, President, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.]

Robert "Bob" Mitchell President Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership testimony before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies. April 2, 2008

"Chairman Alan B. Mollohan and distinguished Members of the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, my name is Bob Mitchell and I am President of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, a member-driven nonprofit 501(c)(6) organization founded in 1985 dedicated to stimulating regional economic development and employment in Houston, Texas. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Innovative Partnership Program contracted with the Technological Research Development Authority in Florida from 2002-2006 to administer the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program, or SATOP, nationwide. The total request for 2009 is $4,000,000 of which Texas will receive $600,000. Thank you for the honor of inviting me to address you today on SATOP.

50 years ago, President Dwight Eisenhower called for the creation of NASA. Under President Kennedy, it provided an inspirational Challenge that caught the nation's heart and caused us to accomplish the impossible - to put a man on the moon and return him safely before the end of the decade. Driving the agency was NASA's inspirational Vision Statement:
To improve life here. To extend life to there. To find life beyond...

I would like to talk to you today about a program that focuses on this Vision's first, and most compelling principle, that of improving life. SATOP is all about improving life here on Earth!

SATOP was created 10 years ago to help the small business community surrounding the NASA Johnson Space Center, and has grown into a nationwide program. It involved a very powerful idea - harness the creative power of those companies involved in the space program and direct it to helping small companies here on earth develop and market their products. The help is given on a voluntary basis and costs the recipient nothing.

Let me tell you about Tyrell, Inc. and its revolutionary skin care device, called Zeno, which was developed with help from SATOP. Zeno has received Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approval and is now sold in all Walgreens stores nationwide. Demand for this innovative tool is exceeding supply.

Zeno quickly eliminates acne with a zap of heat to kill bacteria, an alternative to painful cortisone injections. Tyrell turned to SATOP for assistance to improve the Zeno's heating element and was paired with a thermal engineer from The Boeing Company, a SATOP Alliance Partner.

Addressing Tyrell's request for a simple and inexpensive solution, Boeing recommended a new design that adhered to Tyrell's size, shape and power specifications as well as being resistant to oils and acids. The recommendations also addressed cost efficiency, reducing the cost of the heating element by 40%, making the device affordable.

In 2001, Federal funding was provided to establish a four-state consortium -- Texas, Florida, New Mexico and New York -- to help small businesses across the United States faced with technical challenges. Here is how it works. If a small company has a patent, patent in process, drawing or prototype, just one of the four, we can help by providing up to 40 hours of free technical assistance for qualified requests. Businesses are paired with an Alliance Partner

engineer who accepts the challenge to solve the technical problem. SATOP solves all types of challenges from materials, electronics, and mechanical, everything except software issues.

The primary goals of SATOP are to speed the transfer of U.S. Space Program knowledge to the private sector, to raise public awareness of the Space Program and to provide economic benefits to the community. While SATOP has been successful in its original mission, we never imagined how this program could be such an incredible economic development tool!

With SATOP, we demonstrated that: 1) applications of NASA technology could be put to good use by the private commercial business sector; 2) a non-governmental entity is the best organizer and promoter of these aerospace applications directly to the private sector; 3) small business had the greatest potential to benefit economically and technologically from applying space technology to solve specific technical problems, and 4) not surprisingly the outreach program had the real potential for positive publicity for NASA, thereby enhancing its image as a community partner.

Today, SATOP has evolved into a successful nationwide program providing small businesses with free technical assistance through a vast network of alliance partners, comprised of NASA aerospace companies and their engineers, educational institutions, and various public and private economic development organizations. The program is open to all U.S. businesses and administered through the four SATOP Regional Centers in Texas, Florida, New Mexico, and New York that I mentioned previously.

Let's look at how this has all worked out. In 1998, Texas began with six aerospace companies donating up to 3,000 hours.

The four-state consortium now has 50 alliance partners committing up to 34,000 engineering hours annually. Participation from NASA field centers, like Johnson Space Center in Texas and Kennedy Space Center in Florida, is critical to the success of the program.

	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	TOTAL
Requests	427	492	519	485	1,923
Requests Solved	358	389	435	403	1,585
Economic Impact $Million	$134	$107.1	$106	$165.3	$571.4
Jobs Created/Retained	219	292	220	327	1,373
Success Stories/Major Media	24	41	37	37	152

Since 2003, SATOP has received more than 1900 requests from small businesses and assisted more than 82% of those companies from 46 different states resulting in the creation or retention of more than 1300 jobs. Most importantly, for every $1 invested, the yield is $23 returned in positive economic impact and job creation – a fantastic return!

To effectively reach out, SATOP has formed alliances with over fifty Economic Development Organizations (EDOs), including Educational Institutions, Small Business Development Centers and Chambers of Commerce. EDOs market the program to small businesses located within their

regions. They participate because of the potential economic impact of integrating technology developed by NASA into their community.

Businesses requiring assistance can now submit a Request for Technical Assistance (RTA) online, where a Project Engineer assigns the request to an Alliance Partner engineer who accepts the challenge to solve the technical problem. Partnering scientists and engineers then work with business owners to find a solution to the problem.

Upon resolution of the problem, a publicity campaign is generated to publicize the achievement, benefiting the business, the Alliance Partner, the local Economic Development Organization, SATOP, and, most importantly, NASA.

SATOP has had a significant impact on a number of small business sectors throughout Texas and the nation and has enhanced life here on Earth.

The economic impact of SATOP's free technical assistance is manifested through product sales, contract acquisition, improved revenues, increased employment and capital investment, and growth for the primary business recipient.

The peripheral and secondary economic impact on upstream vendors and suppliers, as well as downstream clients and distributors is now being realized. The development of new technology and products impacts the bottom line of existing businesses, creates potential for new businesses, and opens new markets.

SATOP has had numerous success stories since the inception of the program. The primary criteria for a SATOP success story are coverage in a major regional newspaper or a national publication with a large circulation. Success stories provide visibility for SATOP and NASA through media coverage in print, television and radio. Four of these success stories are provided for your review:

AM Biotechnologies:

The AptaMed company, a spinoff from the University of Texas Medical Branch, was producing very small batches of short strand sulfur modified DNA for advanced pharmaceutical purposes. MEI Technologies engineers made recommendations to automate the extremely slow and laborious manual process. Upon completion of SATOP's assistance, AptaMed and MEI Technologies formed a joint venture (AM Biotechnologies) to further develop the product. The recommendations were implemented and AM Biotechnologies now produces the product in 8 hours compared to the 3 months it used to take.

Mission Technologies:

Mission Technologies, Inc. is a small business developing a compact, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) system for the U.S. Army. The company needed help in reducing the product's overall weight to meet the Army's requirements. Engineers at NASA Johnson Space Center provided design modifications that reduced the weight of the launcher from 37pounds to less than10

pounds, thereby meeting the specified weight requirements. Because of SATOP's assistance, Mission Technologies successfully delivered 36 UAVs to the Army.

HydroGreen Energy:

HydroGreen Energy, LLC is creating a new wave in renewable energy technology. By placing hydro-turbines in the flow of tidal currents, the company can produce energy at a higher capacity than with traditional methods. To validate the energy output and to determine the best turbine design, HydroGreen contacted SATOP for expertise and advice. They needed to know which of their several turbine design concepts would be the most efficient. HydroGreen was assisted by the University of Central Florida that completed a study using their computational fluid dynamics laboratory. Based on the findings, HydroGreen was then able to determine which hydro-turbine produced the optimal performance. HydroGreen is now building hydro-turbines for use at four US Army Corps of Engineers' sites in Mississippi.

ZENO:

Tyrell Inc., a start up medical technology company, needed an improved heating element for a newly developed product that treats individual acne blemishes. Through SATOP, Tyrell gained access to The Boeing Company's engineering expertise that provided a heating element design that met their requirements for resistance to oil and acids, low power consumption and low cost to produce, at less than $1 per unit. Using SATOP's recommendation, Tyrell was able to reduce their manufacturing cost by 40 percent. The product received FDA approval, is being utilized in dermatologist's offices worldwide, and sold in Walgreens stores across the country. Tyrell went from $0 in sales before SATOP's assistance to over $3,000,000 a month. In 2005, ZENO was chosen by "Popular Science Magazine" to receive the "Best of What's New" award.

For additional success stories go to www.spacetechsolutions.com.

In closing, Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members, the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program has taken the best of our space program and made it available at no cost to new and growing small business allowing them to grow and hire.

The return of $23 dollars for each $1 dollar spent is a statistic unparalleled in the field of economic development. The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, together with the 4 Regional Centers, has been proud to be a part of this unique and highly successful program and we look forward to being able to continue its job creation benefits.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you for your testimony. And very impressive results. I know your Congressman, Mr. Lampson, has buttonholed me a number of times on the floor saying how effective you have been.

Mr. LAMPSON. More to come.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. I am sure, thank you for your testimony.

Mr. MITCHELL. Again, thank you for your time.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Frelinghuysen. No.

Mr. LAMPSON. Thank you, gentlemen, very much.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you. Next, the Committee would like to welcome the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Dr. Sam Zamrik. Dr. Zamrik. Welcome to the hearing today.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NSF

WITNESS

SAM ZAMRIK, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Mr. ZAMRIK. My name is Sam Zamrik. I am the President of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME. I am also a mechanical engineer consultant. I am Professor Emeritus at the Pennsylvania State University, and I have more that thirty-five years of experience in engineering education. I want to thank this Subcommittee for the opportunity to comment on the National Science Foundation fiscal year 2009 budget request. Our detailed written statement has been submitted for the record.

ASME is a 120,000 member professional organization focused on technical, educational, and research issues. Engineers play a critical role in the nation's research and development enterprise, exciting innovation, and encouraging economic growth. I am pleased to have with me today, Dr. Timothy Wei, Professor and head of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering department at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Wei serves on our NSF Task Force.

In August 2007, Congress and the administration laid out a bold path toward revitalizing basic research in the physical sciences and engineering in the enactment of the America Competes Act. This bipartisan legislation authorizes a doubling of funding over ten years of the three key federal science agencies, one of which is the National Science Foundation that I will be highlighting in my testimony today. We believe NSF plays a crucial role in directing the fundamental research and education that keeps America at the leading edge of engineering, science, and technology. The increases proposed under the America Competes Act would allow NSF to properly sustain and expand its effort and commitment, honing the nation's competitive edge.

Although the Act was a combination of a growing consensus that increased R and D funding is needed to preserve the nation's competitiveness, the proposed fiscal year 2008 increase for NSF was far from met in the final appropriation. As a result, we urge Congress to recommit to the ideals of the America Competes Act and to fund NSF at a minimum of $6.85 billion as proposed in the administra-

tion's fiscal year 2009 budget request. It is notable that over three-quarters of the proposed increase is for research and development funding, which brings R and D investment at NSF at $5.6 billion in inflation adjusted dollars.

Additionally, I would like to highlight our strong support of the NSF Engineering Directorate, which already funds many of the high risk, high reward projects that meet the fundamental scientific and technological challenges intended by the America Competes Act. We are pleased with the President's strong budget request for ENG at $759 million, an increase of $104 million over fiscal year 2008.

And on a personal note, as a young professor, as a young mechanical engineer professor, I would not be here today if it was not for NSF support of my research development and my graduate students. In closing, I strongly urge you to support the America Competes Act, research and development at NSF. Thank you for the opportunity to present our views.

[Testimony of Sam Zamrik, President, American Society of Mechanical Engineers.]

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Position Statement on the FY 2009 Budget Request for the National Science Foundation (NSF) submitted by the ASME NSF Task Force to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations

March 28, 2008

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Task Force of ASME's Technical Communities is pleased to provide comments on the NSF Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 budget request, in support of this year's proposed funding level of $6.85 Billion for the NSF. Founded in 1880 as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME is a worldwide engineering society of over 127,000 members focused on technical, educational and research issues. It conducts one of the world's largest technical publishing operations, holds approximately 30 technical conferences and 200 professional development courses each year, and sets many industry and manufacturing standards.

NSF FY 2009 Budget Request Overview

With its commitment to broad-based, cross-cutting programs that advance the boundaries of science and engineering, the NSF is essential in guiding the nation's non-defense-related research and education. As recognized by the Administration and Congress, in order for the U.S. to remain competitive in the integrated global marketplace, the nation must "support and promote innovation research in the United States through high-risk, high-reward projects that meet fundamental scientific and technological challenges." To implement this vision, the America COMPETES Act, which was signed into law in August 2007, includes the NSF as one of three key federal science and engineering agencies targeted for budget doubling over 10 years. To this end, ASME strongly endorses the NSF's investments in the requisite acquisition of new knowledge and in the development of talent whereby transformative research is supported and a world-class science and engineering workforce is built, inciting innovation, encouraging economic growth, addressing critical national needs, and establishing our nation's role as a global leader.

The total FY 2009 NSF budget request is $6.85 Billion (B) representing an $882 Million (M) or 13.6% increase over the FY 2008 estimate of $6.03B. It is worth noting that the original FY 2008 request was $6.43B, which was reduced to $6.03 billion (representing only a 2% increase over FY 2007) in the final FY 2008 omnibus spending measure. Thus, after setbacks in FY 2007 and FY 2008, the present budget request places NSF back on the path of budget doubling set forth in the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) and the America COMPETES Act.

Research and Related Activities (RRA) comprises the dominant portion of the total NSF request at $5.6M, representing a 16.0% increase over the FY 2008 estimate of $4.8M. After flat funding in FY 2008, all of NSF's research directorates would receive considerable increases in FY 2009, recovering from post-2004 NSF budget cuts to reach all-time highs in inflation-adjusted dollars. Funding for the Engineering Directorate (**ENG**) would increase by 19.2% over the current year estimate to $759M, of which $127M is budgeted (through mandate) for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs that **ENG** administers for all of NSF.

ENG consists of the following disciplinary-area divisions: Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET), up 32.3% to $173M; Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI), up 26.3% to $202M; Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems (ECCS), up 13% to $94M; Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP), up 15.8% to $141M; Emerging Frontiers in Research

and Innovation (EFRI), up 16% to $29M; and Engineering Education and Centers (EEC), up 3.4% to $120M.

A portion of the **ENG** budget (allocated from the constituent divisions) will continue to support research and education efforts related to broad, Foundation-wide investments in a number of areas, including the Administration's interagency R&D priorities. Under **ENG**, three new priority areas are funded in FY 2009, i.e. Adaptive Systems Technology ($3.49M), Dynamics of Water Processes in the Environment ($0.53M), and Science and Engineering Beyond Moore's Law ($4.0M). The following continuing areas also receive increases: National Nanotechnology Initiative (up 2.2% to $140M), Cyberinfrastructure (up 7.1% to $60M), and Networking and Information Technology R&D (up 45.9% to $28M — $16.8M of which is Cyber-enabled Discovery and Innovation). Climate Change Science Program ($1.0M) funding remains level, and the Human and Social Dynamics initiative concluded in FY2008, with funds returning to core programs for continued support.

The ASME NSF Task Force Position

Affirmation and Endorsement

The ASME NSF Task Force maintains its high endorsement of NSF's crucial role in directing the fundamental research and education that keeps America at the leading edge of science, engineering, and technology. NSF has an outstanding record of supporting a broad range of high-quality research, from 'curiosity-driven' science to targeted initiatives. This achievement has been made possible only through strict adherence to the independent peer review process for merit-based awards. ASME recognizes the significance and relevance of NSF's **investment areas** that address major national needs for the 21st century. The increases proposed under the America COMPETES Act would allow NSF to properly sustain and expand these efforts and commitments, honing the nation's competitive edge.

The FY 2009 Budget Request represents a 13.6% increase over the FY 2008 estimate. Over three-quarters of the total $882M increase for NSF is in R&D funding, totaling $5.6B, a gain of $772 million or 16% over the FY 2008 estimate. After flat funding in FY 2008, this request would bring R&D investment to an all-time high in inflation-adjusted dollars, allowing the research directorates to recover from the budget cuts that occurred after 2004. In a competitive, multifaceted, and ever-changing global setting, adequate investment in basic science and engineering research, that involves both established and emerging areas, is essential in recognizing and nurturing innovation, in preparing the next generation of scientific talent and leaders, and in producing the products, processes, and services that improve health, living conditions, environmental quality, energy conservation, and national security for all Americans.

Overall, the Task Force also supports and commends activities within **ENG**. NSF's vision of "advancing discovery, innovation, and education beyond the frontiers of current knowledge" is exemplified within **ENG**. It is important to recognize that it is through such fundamental science and engineering research by which next generation technologies are frequently engendered. Examples of successes emerging from **ENG** include the fabrication of nanowires for optical applications, presenting the potential to miniaturize microphotonic devices and transform telecommunications. **ENG's** SBIR program has developed lightweight, flexible, low-cost, and more efficient solar cells—plastic reels coated with layers of dye-sensitized titania nanoparticles, enabling capture of larger portions of the visible spectrum and absorption of more energy. **ENG** has also funded pioneering work on embedding transistors into microcantilevers, where deflections resulting from the binding of target molecules in a specific environment, create measurable changes in drain current of the transistor. This technique allows for a unique sensor system that could potentially detect the presence of heart disease from a person's drop of blood or detect the presence of chemicals used for explosives.

NSF leads the U.S. nanotechnology research effort, and **ENG** is the focal point within NSF for this key national research endeavor. ASME has strongly supported the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI)

since its inception as an NSF **investment area** in FY 2000. Increased funding amounts are requested for research at the fundamental level, as well as in environmental, health, and safety aspects. Within the total NSF-wide investment for NNI, **ENG**'s contribution will increase by $3M to a total of $140M.

Finally, ASME continues to support NSF's vision to "empower future generations in science and engineering." In coordination with the Department of Education, NSF will continue funding for the Math and Science Partnership program (at $51M), aimed at improving K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and teaching. Funding for the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) awards, which support exceptionally promising college and university junior faculty who are most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century, will increase $14.2M to $181.9M. The FY 2009 Request provides $245.9M for NSF's three flagship graduate fellowship and traineeship programs: $124.8M for the Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) program, $63.8M for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Program, and $57.3M for the Graduate Teaching Fellowships in K-12 Education (GK-12) program. This funding will enable NSF to support an estimated 5,450 graduate students. NSF supports the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program (REU) at $61.6M, and the Research Experiences for Teachers program (RET) at $9.7M. NSF continues to broaden participation in science and engineering, with support totaling $674.4M. This includes efforts to reach all states and regions, e.g. the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), which increases to $113.5M, as well as efforts that focus on underrepresented groups.

Questions and Concerns

ASME's key questions and concerns arising from the FY 2009 budget request center on:

- the need to fund NSF at the appropriate level as specified in the America COMPETES Act;
- a more even funding distribution for **ENG** with respect to other Directorates within NSF;
- a balance between manufacturing and services R&D within **ENG**; and
- increased funding for non-priority-area core disciplinary research within **ENG**.

NSF is the only federal agency mandated "to strengthen the health and vitality of U.S. science and engineering and support fundamental research and education in all scientific and engineering disciplines." While comprising only 4% of the total federal budget for R&D, NSF provides 45% of the federal support given to academic institutions for non-medical basic research. Moreover, while NSF does not directly support medical research, its investments do provide the technologies in diagnosis, medicine, manufacturing pharmaceuticals, and drug delivery that are essential for the medical sciences and related industries. Given recent budget cuts at the appropriations stage, the ASME NSF Task Force believes that NSF is severely under funded, with the immediate and future welfare of our nation at stake.

Recognizing the urgency in preserving the nation's past success in leading-edge discovery and innovation, Congress and the Administration enacted the America COMPETES Act in August of 2007, laying out a bold path toward revitalizing basic research in the physical sciences and engineering. Beginning with the release of the National Academies' report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, the America COMPETES Act was the culmination of a growing consensus among policy makers, engineers, and scientists that substantial national efforts related to R&D funding in the physical sciences and engineering are needed to preserve the nation's competitiveness. The America COMPETES Act was a bipartisan bill supporting the doubling of funding over ten years at three key federal science agencies (NSF, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology). However, despite an increase for NSF and the other two agencies, the proposed FY 2008 increase for NSF was far from met in the final appropriation. As a result, the ASME NSF task force urges Congress to recommit to the ideals of the America COMPETES Act, and to fund NSF at the level of the FY 2009 President's request, i.e. $6.85B, which is commensurate with the intended doubling plan.

ENG is the single largest source of federal funding for university-based, fundamental engineering research – providing 40% of the total federal support in this area. However, **ENG** (less SBIR/STTR) is still only fifth in total funding (at $632M) of the six Directorates within NSF, despite receiving the second largest percentage increase of the Directorates at 19.6% and matching CISE for the second largest total amount increase at $104M. At the same time, **ENG** supports 23% of the total NSF REUs, which give U.S. undergraduates research experience to encourage them to pursue doctoral studies. **ENG** also supports over 50% of the total NSF RETs, which give K-12 teachers and community college faculty research experience so that they can extend their experience into classrooms. It's important to note that **ENG** supports these two activities at the highest percentages among the Directorates within NSF. Our Nation's long-standing global prominence in technological innovation may be at risk, if such investments in basic engineering research and education are constrained by lack of federal funding in engineering.

Driving new innovation, knowledge-intensive industries comprising both services and manufacturing are critical in surviving in the worldwide economy. However, since 2002, the nation's decades-long comparative advantage in the trade balance of high-technology products has shifted from surplus to deficit. Of concern is the transformation of the U.S. from a sustainable "making products" economy to an unsustainable "selling products" economy. As found in a study by the World Technology Evaluation Center, Inc. (WTEC) on American Manufacturing, globalization of manufacturing and the low level of government investment in manufacturing R&D have stripped the U.S. of its position as the recognized leader in manufacturing innovation and the commercialization of new technologies. Given the need for local manufacturing for national security, wealth generation, and quality of life (e.g. health care products compromised by unknown sources), the portfolio balance of manufacturing versus services R&D within **ENG** should be examined.

Encouragingly, the 16% growth in RRA allows for the support of 1,370 additional research grants NSF-wide. For **ENG**, 454 additional grants are anticipated, along with a funding-rate increase from 16-20% and a $2K increase in average annualized award size, for unsolicited fundamental research proposals for individual investigators and small group activities. Although we are moving in the right direction, the total funding for non-priority-area core disciplinary research (from which new priority areas and even new disciplines are often conceived) within **ENG** should still be examined. Not counting the SBIR/STTR program, the funding for **investment priority-areas** constitutes over 40% of the budget request for **ENG**. The Task Force does not advocate for the redistribution of monies from **investment priority-areas** into non-priority core areas, but rather significant increases for completely flexible core funds in order to develop the creative and novel ideas that feed the comprehensive fundamental Science, Engineering, and Technology knowledge base, which serves as a foundation for this nation's greatness.

Closure

The ASME NSF Task Force urges Congress to support the Administration's request at a minimum of $6.85B for FY 2009, and enthusiastically commends the National Science Foundation's leadership in projecting the nation's basic research and development vision. We applaud Congress for its recent passage of the House budget resolution, which includes significant increases that would bring NSF into full compliance with the America COMPETES Act. A substantial increase in the NSF's budget, by increasing both the number and size of its awards, especially in core disciplinary research and education, will enable the NSF to better position itself to fulfill its leadership responsibility in directing the nation's research and development activities. As Congress considers the FY 2009 appropriations bills, we hope that the aforementioned resolution is effected, ensuring that the necessary basic R&D funding is secured for future U.S. competitiveness in science and technology.

This testimony represents the considered judgment of the NSF Task Force of ASME's Technical Communities and is not necessarily a position of ASME as a whole.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. I think you would be comforted to understand that this Committee is very sympathetic to the purposes of your testimony. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I echo those sentiments exactly. Thank you, Dr. Zamrik.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Doctor. Next the Subcommittee would like to welcome Mr. William F. Smith, Jr. testifying on behalf of the Association of Universities for Research and Astronomy.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

AMERICA COMPETES ACT

WITNESS

WILLIAM SMITH, ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Mollohan and Mr. Frelinghuysen. I do appreciate the opportunity to testify and I am going to try to be very brief. I represent the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy. This is a consortium of forty major research universities and we operate some of the most important of the public observatories. We operate three major telescopes for the National Science Foundation. We also have the privilege of managing the science operations for Hubble Space Telescope. I wanted to just very briefly mention the three major points in my written testimony.

The first of which resonates with some of the other statements that you have heard here today, and that is to ask for your strong support for the America Competes Act. I think it is pretty clear that this was a very visionary, I think, policy that would enable an increase in the physical sciences and we, as well as some of the other disciplines here today, would have very much benefitted from that. Obviously, it fell short in fiscal year 2008 and I understood the previous statement from the Chair that you will take a close look at this in fiscal year 2009. So I very much appreciate that.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. If you want the attitude of the Subcommittee with regard to these levels of funding you need to look at our bill as it came out of the House.

Mr. SMITH. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, I have and I point out many areas that I very much appreciated in last year's support and bill. So I do know that you are trying very hard to address these concerns.

Secondly I also wanted to express our gratitude for your past support for the Hubble Space Telescope and the future James Webb Telescope. Thankfully we will have a shuttle servicing mission later this year for Hubble and that is due in very large part to the interest of Congress, and in particular this Committee. So I think that this will return great rewards for the community and for the nation.

Third, I just wanted to mention another item that in fact you did address in last year's report, that this is the adverse effect of currency fluctuations on areas such as mine that must necessarily operate in foreign countries. In our case, we operate observatories in Chile. And we are absolutely devastated by the impact of the weak-

ening dollar and what is happening to the Chilean peso. It has decreased our buying power by an enormous amount and it gets worse every day. So we believe, and I think you really alluded to this in report language, that there has to be a mechanism to address this, something like a revolving fund or reserve fund that can sustain areas like ours. There are others that also suffer from this issue. So I do appreciate the, I guess the attention that you gave to this in your last report. We have a long ways to go. It is a very difficult problem. Thank you.

[Written testimony of Dr. William S. Smith, President, Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy.]

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Statement by
Dr. William S. Smith, Jr.
President, Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy

Before the
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

April 2, 2008

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA). AURA was founded in 1957 as a consortium of Universities dedicated to advancing the field of astronomy. Today, AURA consists of 40 member institutions and we manage four major observatories on behalf of the NSF and NASA: the National Optical Astronomy Observatory located in Kitt Peak Arizona and in Chile; the Gemini Observatory located on Mauna Kea Hawaii, and in Chile; the National Solar Observatory located at Sac Peak New Mexico and Kitt Peak Arizona; and the Space Telescope Science Institute located on the campus of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

AURA's observatories, and others funded by NSF and NASA, contribute to one of the most important and visible areas of the Nation's science portfolio. There is no question that astronomy plays a major role in garnering public interest in science. Understanding the origin and evolution of the universe, the possibility for other habitable planets, and probing the unknown forces of nature are the most compelling questions of our time, not only for scientists, but for humankind.

Astronomy also plays a major role in the Nation's competitiveness and contributes strongly to the objectives of the American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI). Our investments in basic research have returned enormous dividends both in terms of our economic growth and our intellectual heritage. Astronomy, and other elements of the ACI, have a powerful effect in drawing students into the fields of math and science and strongly promote the development of an educated work force.

AURA welcomed the bipartisan passage of the America COMPETES Act of 2007 which sought to provide a statutory basis for the ACI. In particular, it put in place a commitment to double research in the physical sciences. The outcome of the FY08 Appropriations cycle was a disappointment to many. NSF, in particular, has been strongly impacted inasmuch as it will be difficult to plan for carrying out important future programs without some confidence that the budget for science will grow.

AURA strongly believes that it is essential for the NSF to carry out high priority programs such as the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope, the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, and the Giant Segmented Mirror Telescope. These were identified as the highest priority initiatives in the Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey in 2000, yet progress has been slow due to minimal growth in the NSF budget.

The ACI, for the first time in NSF's history, set forth a long range budget beginning in FY2006 that, by doubling, would accomplish much throughout the agency, including these programs in astronomy. The FY08 Omnibus Appropriations bill, sharply limited the overall NSF request.

AURA commends the conferees, however, in including language that encouraged the NSF to fully fund the request level for astronomy, despite this overall reduction. The conferees also included an explicit recognition of the emerging issue of currency exchange rate fluctuations and their adverse effect on science programs that operate from off shore locations. AURA has experienced a major impact in operating our facilities in Chile for this reason. We believe that many other inherently international science programs are suffering from this same factor. There is a common need to establish a mechanism that can buffer such programs from adverse currency fluctuations. These provisions within the FY08 Appropriations report were extremely encouraging. We hope that the Committee continues to focus attention on these matters.

For FY09, the Administration is again proposing to put NSF back on the original doubling track recommended in the ACI and in the America COMPETES Act. We strongly recommend that the NSF be funded at this request level.

For NASA, we are all looking forward to the up-coming Hubble servicing mission which this committee has consistently supported. With two new instruments, upgraded gyro-scopes, batteries and guiders, as well as attempting to repair two of the telescopes workhorse instruments NASA and the Astronaut crew will bring the Hubble Space Telescope to the apex of its performance. AURA will be doing its part to ensure at least five more years of spectacular science will continue to flow to the astronomical community and to the American people who have been consistent partners in this great Hubble adventure. This request also provides for much needed funding for the James Webb Space Telescope, the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope during its most critical year. This year the project will be considered by a Non-Advocate Review for confirmation as a full construction program. The project has progressed well and, together with the reserve funding that has been budgeted for, will continue on track for a launch in 2013.

AURA commends the Committee for its leadership and its support for science.

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Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Doctor.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Next the Committee would like to welcome Dr. Richard Anthes. Doctor, is that the way you pronounce your name?

Mr. ANTHES. Good.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. He will be testifying on behalf of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. Doctor, welcome to the hearing.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NSF

WITNESS

RICHARD A. ANTHES, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

Mr. ANTHES. Thank you very much. I am impressed by the breadth of the issues that you have to consider and listen to. There is really an amazing range of things that you are dealing with. And thank you for your stewardship of the nation's investments in science and technology. It is really appreciate.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you.

Mr. ANTHES. I am Richard Anthes and the President of UCAR, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. We are a consortium of seventy-one major research institutions in the United States and we run the National Center for Atmospheric Research, NCAR, on behalf of the National Science Foundation, NASA, NOAA, and other federal agencies. I am also the immediate past president of the American Meteorological Society and I was co-chair with Berrien Moore of the first ever decadal survey of earth sciences and applications from space, the so-called decadal survey which is receiving attention in NASA and NOAA fortunately.

Our vision, and I will just paraphrase it, was that understanding the earth and the life systems that it supports is one of the greatest intellectual challenges facing humanity. The second, and equally important, it is one of the most important for society, as we learn to try to become healthier and more sustainable. So the two aspects of high intellectual merit and very high relevance to society is very important.

Climate and the weather and their changes are affecting all parts of society. This is not something that is going to be in the future, it is happening now. Public health and safety, economics, social stability, agriculture, water supplies and management, energy production and use, transportation and military readiness are all being affected by weather and climate changes. Policy and decision makers are asking and clamoring for very specific advice. Not how much the earth is going to warm up in two or three or four decades by a degree or so, but they are asking questions like what kind of crops should we be planting in a drier and warmer climate? How will rising sea level and increased, or changes in hurricanes affect the Gulf and Atlantic coasts? When will the Arctic Ocean become ice free? And how will water supplies change in the future?

And then more recently, how can we mitigate climate change to bio or geo-engineering techniques such as afforestation, growing

biofuels, or placing particles into the stratosphere or even mirrors into space.

Those are interesting things, but I will just parenthetically say we do not know about how these things would actually work and what the side effects might be to go ahead and start doing something like that. So there is a real need for science.

Imagine flying into, if you are a pilot in the new aircraft and you are the pilot of this country flying an aircraft into unknown territory during a storm with half of your instrument panels going out and you are not being trained, you have not been trained to fly into this particular storm. That is an analogy to where we all are in my view, this country. We just cannot afford the challenges ahead to fly half blind and ignorant of much of how this planet works.

So at a time when the need has never been greater in real terms, the investments have been decreasing for NSF, NASA, and NOAA in the past four years. We need these agencies, and I am going to argue for the agencies as a whole, not for a particular program, to provide the observations of science prediction models and information that decision-makers want and need.

It is essential the Congress support a robust investment for earth science and applications. And so I support the fiscal year 2009 request of 6.84 billion for NSF at a minimum, 4.583 billion for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, and 4.5 billion for NOAA overall.

My written testimony goes into more detail on the complements of these agencies.

Future leaders in the White House and Congress will be forced to juggle many priorities. Climate and weather change with increasing societal vulnerability rank among the top threats facing us.

It is imperative that we invest in deserving, predictive capability and understanding at a level commensurate with the importance of weather and climate while at the same time carrying out effective, and I emphasize effective, mitigation and adaptation efforts on a regional, national, and local basis.

So thanks very much. I will be happy to answer any questions.

[Written testimony of Richard A. Anthes, President of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.]

Testimony Regarding the FY09 Budget Request
Submitted 28 March 2008

Richard A. Anthes
President of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
and
Co-Chair, Committee on Earth Science and Applications from Space (2003-2007)
Member, Committee on Earth Sciences, Space Studies Board
National Research Council
The National Academies
and
Past President, American Meteorological Society

Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

I submit this written testimony for the record of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and Commerce, and Related Agencies. My name is Richard Anthes and I am the President of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). UCAR is a 71-university member consortium that manages and operates the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and additional programs that support and extend the country's scientific research and education capabilities.

I am also immediate past President of the American Meteorological Society and was co-chairman with Dr. Berrien Moore of the first ever National Research Council "decadal survey" that established priorities in Earth observations from space for NASA, NOAA and USGS. Our Committee's vision is represented by the following declaration:

"Understanding the complex, changing planet on which we live, how it supports life, and how human activities affect its ability to do so in the future is one of the greatest intellectual challenges facing humanity. It is also one of the most important challenges for society as it seeks to achieve prosperity, health, and sustainability."

As detailed in the committee's final report, *Earth Science and Applications from Space*, and as we are reminded on almost a daily basis, the world faces significant and profound environmental challenges: shortages of clean and accessible freshwater, degradation of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, global air pollution, declines in fisheries, devastating floods and droughts, and above all the accelerating pace of substantial changes in climate. These changes are not isolated; they interact with each other and with natural variability in complex manners that affect local, regional, and global scales in unpredictable ways. Addressing these societal challenges requires that we confront key scientific questions related to ice sheets and sea level change; large-scale and persistent shifts in precipitation, droughts, and water availability; transcontinental air pollution; and impacts of climate change on ecosystems, human health, and occurrence of extreme events such as hurricanes.

Yet at a time when the need has never been greater, we are faced with decreasing investments in real terms for NSF, NASA and NOAA, which are key agencies that are needed to provide the necessary observations, science, prediction models, and information that policy- and decision-makers want and need to respond effectively to imminent short-term threats from weather hazards and to plan and prepare for the long-term future of the United States as we move into an uncharted climate. It is essential to meet both the short- and long-term challenges that the nation support Earth sciences and applications in NSF, NASA and NOAA. **I support the FY09 request of $6.84 billion for NSF at a minimum, $4.583 billion for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, and $4.5 billion for NOAA overall.**

The atmospheric and Earth sciences community is concerned about the final outcome for basic research in many areas of the FY08 Consolidated Appropriations Act. We appreciate the difficult choices Appropriators were forced to make regarding FY08 appropriations, but the negative consequences of not investing now in science that contributes to our economy, standard of living, and safety and security, will only multiply in the future as global competitors invest on a broader scale than ever before. We appreciate Congress' support for the enactment last year of the America COMPETES Act and urge the Appropriations Committee to follow through with FY09 funding for NSF, NASA, and NOAA that reflects the concern demonstrated in that legislation for the health of this country's scientific programs.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

While we have lost a year with nearly flat NSF funding for FY08, this critical science agency can get back on track to planned accelerated research levels by receiving appropriated funds at the level of the authorized amount of $7.32 billion in the America COMPETES ACT. This would provide a return on investment that would benefit citizens in additional research funded for the short and long term health of the country. ***I urge the Members to support the President's overall FY09 request of at least $6.84 billion for the National Science Foundation and, within NSF, the request of $5.59 billion at least for Research and Related Activities (R&RA), the heart of NSF's scientific enterprise.***

Geosciences Directorate (GEO). In this most critical moment for the health of our planet and the future of life as we know it, the geosciences contribute knowledge that is absolutely necessary to understanding climate, weather, the dynamics of water resources, solar effects on Earth, space weather, the interactions of Earth's systems, energy resources, geologic hazards, and all aspects of the global oceans. The economic effects are substantial, with estimates of the component of the U.S. economy exposed to risks associated with weather and climate variability alone reaching $3 trillion annually. While we support the increase for NSF's GEO Directorate in the FY09 budget request, we urge the Committee to once again reiterate, as it did last year, that all disciplines of science, including the geosciences, should be considered integral to the American Competitiveness Initiative and urge even stronger increases to include GEO on the "doubling track." ***I urge the Members to support the President's FY09 request of $848.67 million, at a minimum, for the Geosciences Directorate, and within GEO, to provide the President's request of $240.8 million at least for the Atmospheric Sciences Division which provides resources for the atmospheric sciences community that are critical to the physical safety of our citizens, our economic health, and global issues of national security such as***

severe weather hazards, climate change, the security of our communications infrastructure, and the environmental health of the planet.

Office of Cyberinsfrastructure (OCI). As stated in the FY09 request, OCI "supports research, development, acquisition and operation of advanced shared and connecting infrastructure that enables otherwise unrealizable advances in 21st century science and engineering research and education." The modeling of the Earth's atmosphere is one of these "otherwise unrealizable advances." ***I urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $220.08 million, an 18.8 percent increase over FY08 that recognizes cyberinfrastructure's key role in this nation's scientific global competitiveness.***

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) has a central role in understanding our planet, that is realized especially through the Earth Science account. Yet despite increasing policy-driven demand for information and analysis the funding in this area is not keeping up with needed support for observing systems and research. I appreciate the Administration's focus on Earth Science in the FY09 request, particularly in the context of the cuts that other areas have received in this account. But NASA's overall role in this country's scientific endeavor is so strategic and central to our well being that SMD should be one of this nation's highest priorities. ***I urge the Members to increase the Science Mission Directorate funding levels to at least $4.583 billion, $142 million above the FY09 request and sufficient to keep pace with 3 percent inflation.***

With climate change accelerating more rapidly than expected, there are few NASA responsibilities more important than monitoring the Earth's environment. Within NASA's SMD account, Earth Science does relatively well with a 6.8 percent increase. Even so, the Earth Science funding request of $1.367 billion will fall short of the recommendations of the National Research Council (NRC) report, *Earth and Science Applications from Space: National Imperatives for the Next Decade and Beyond,* otherwise known as the Decadal Survey. **Out year funding, as planned now, absolutely falls short.** It is encouraging to see the Decadal Survey being used as a benchmark for the order and timing of missions. However, falling behind schedule increases the risk of losing continuity in important observational data, which presents serious calibration issues even if replacement sensors are eventually launched. ***I urge the Members to plan for needed future investments to get back on track to implement the Decadal Survey recommendations. The FY09 request includes out-year funding of approximately $1.3 billion annually, versus the Decadal Survey estimated funding requirement of over $2 billion annually.***

NASA's SMD programs that are in progress and others that are yet to be implemented will enable us to mitigate some of the property damage and prevent some of the deaths caused by severe weather and help us to mitigate, understand, and cope with the inevitable effects of natural and human-induced climate change. SMD "space weather" programs, part of the Living with a Star Program, will also protect space vehicles, astronauts, and satellites from the devastating radiation of solar storms. These programs are critical to the health of our economy, to the health of the Earth, and to our national security. Once again, ***I urge the Members to protect the vibrant NASA science accounts and missions, current and planned, that make possible the study of our own planet and the environment that sustains life on Earth.***

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
As stated in the Friends of NOAA Coalition letter of 12 March 2008, "Assuming an annual inflationary rate of 3 percent, and using FY05 as a baseline, the agency's budget would need to be $4.4 billion in FY09 just to remain level in constant dollars." It is obviously impossible for NOAA to keep up with expanding responsibilities while its budget effectively shrinks. The atmospheric sciences community appreciates the Administration's request of $4.1 billion for FY09, but this increase of 5.5 percent over FY08 will primarily augment the satellite programs while others are diminished. The America COMPETES Act, signed into law last August, states that NOAA "shall be a full participant in any interagency effort to promote innovation and economic competitiveness through near-term and long-term basic scientific research and development and the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education consistent with the agency mission, including authorized activities." NOAA has the potential to make much greater contributions, but the agency is struggling. There simply must be a better balance between NOAA's infrastructure, operations, and research funding, as well as effective management and organizational structure at all levels, for this agency to accomplish its mission.

I urge the Members to support an appropriation of at least $4.5 billion for NOAA in FY09 – a level recommended by the Senate for the past three fiscal years and endorsed by the multi-sector Friends of NOAA Coalition and Weather Coalition -- and to do so while maintaining vital support for other portion's of the Subcommittee's research and development portfolio. While this amount is not sufficient to meet all of NOAA's current obligations well, it would at least begin to alleviate the pressures that have built up over many years and set a more realistic (although still inadequate) base on which to organize and mobilize this agency to meet current and future obligations that are of sufficient importance to the health of this nation that they warrant the Committee's full attention.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). Within OAR's Competitive Research Program request of $134.7 million, a small increase will support several climate and weather data related activities of great importance to the country and enable OAR to work more effectively with, and leverage from, the enormous base of expertise in the academic community. Within OAR Weather and Air Quality Research, the potentially substantial role of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in filling very serious observational gaps will be examined, and hurricane forecast improvement will be pursued. The FY09 request moves the US Weather Research Program from the National Weather Service back to OAR. This chronically underfunded program will fund THORpex, a multi-year international field experiment to improve two to ten-day forecasts, as well as experimental hurricane forecasting work. ***I urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $372.2 million (Operations, Research and Facilities -- ORF) for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.***

National Weather Service (NWS). Within NWS, we fully support the FY09 requested program change highlights including support for weather data buoys to enhance hurricane and severe storm observations, the effort to develop enhanced fire weather modeling capability, and additional water vapor sensors that contribute to improved weather aviation services within the Integrated Upper Air Observing System. ***I urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $930.7 million for the NWS.***

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS). NESDIS receives an absolutely necessary increase for the geostationary satellite series, GOES-R. Any further delay or decrease in funding will cause additional program costs as well as interruption to the overall continuity of GOES comprehensive data coverage including atmospheric, oceanic, climatic, and solar observations. This would cause severe problems for the nation's weather forecasts and warnings, climatologic analysis and prediction, ecosystems management, and safe and efficient public and private transportation. The FY09 request cuts funding for the tri-agency National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite (NPOESS) program, which we understand is a result of restructuring. We are extremely concerned about out-year funding for this critical program, but are pleased with the reinstatement of the development of two NPOESS climate sensors that were previously de-manifested, the Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) sensor and the Total Solar Irradiance Sensor (TSIS).

Of additional concern is the nearly flat funding for NESDIS Data Centers. If the country is truly committed to renewing *and capitalizing on* its investment in Earth-observing systems, it must also invest in accessing, archiving and assessing the data gathered from these systems. The weather and climate community is concerned also that the President's request fails to begin initial planning for the CLARREO and GPSRO missions, as recommended in the NRC Decadal Survey. CLARREO and GPSRO provide critical measurements of Earth's and the sun's radiation, which are critical for climate, and temperature, water vapor, and electron density profiles for weather, climate, and space weather.

I urge the Members to consider the NESDIS Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) account FY09 request level of $1.24 billion to be the base level for this line office; to examine the erosion of funding for the NESDIS Data Centers and appropriate for them an inflationary increase; to press the agency to begin planning for the CLARREO and GPSRO missions; and to continue to pursue solutions to this nation's critical Earth observing program, the infrastructural satellite component of which is going to cause NOAA's core programs to be undercut severely if additional resources or restructuring are not provided.

National Ocean Service (NOS). Ocean data are of great importance to the work of the atmospheric sciences community. Of particular interest are the efforts within NOS to manage hydrographic datasets more effectively and efficiently (Ping to Chart Infrastructure Streamlining), as well as the implementation *as it was originally conceived*, of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). There is great concern that years of report recommendations have not been heeded and that the original concept of a "system of systems" providing information on the current and future state of the oceans, informed by competitive research grants to provide the technologies and understanding required to build and improve a scientifically sound system, has been abandoned. ***I urge the Members to support data gathering efforts within the National Ocean Service, but to ensure that a competitive grants program be fully funded for the Integrated Ocean Observing System so that this valuable program may be appropriately structured to meet its societal goals.***

I sincerely thank the members of the Committee for your stewardship of the nation's scientific enterprise and your understanding that the future strength of the nation depends on the investments we make in science and technology today.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Doctor, for your testimony.

Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you, Doctor, for your testimony. Hopefully, we are not flying half flagged, and we have Dr. Ehlers behind us who helps provide some direction for us as well. Thank you very much.

Mr. ANTHES. Thank you very much.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Doctor.

Next the Committee would like to welcome our colleague, Vernon Ehlers, who Mr. Frelinghuysen has already——

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Alluded to.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Alluded? Well, lauded more his contribution to the Congress in the areas of science.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NSF

NIST

WITNESS

HON. VERNON EHLERS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. EHLERS. Thank you very much and thank you for holding this hearing.

As you know, this topic is of deep interest and, in fact, great love to me. It is one of the few passions I have which is probably a good attribute for a Congressman to have only one passion.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Okay.

Mr. EHLERS. Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify. And I am the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee of Research and Science Education. Chairman Brian Baird and I work closely together. We are a great team. We are very, very supportive of scientific research.

The core capacity depends on basic research and I believe a vigorous research base is crucial to our national economic security.

To that end, I would ask you to give high priority to scientific research and development and as well as math and science education in fiscal year 2009 by funding the National Science Foundation at $7.3 billion and the National Institute of Standards and Technology Laboratories at $882 million.

I would love to speak about DOE also, but that is not in your jurisdiction, but they are facing similar difficulties.

The Science and Technology Committee crafted authorization bills for the NSF and NIST that set these agencies on a pathway to double their budgets by the year 2017. This work culminated in the passage of the "Competes Act," which you are very familiar with.

In conference, I was pleased that the pathway for the NSF doubling was accelerated to a seven instead of ten-year pathway. The House and Senate strongly endorsed fundamental research and education in the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills, but I understand you are faced with challenging spending decisions in the final fiscal year 2008 Omnibus Bill.

Let me just comment briefly about that. I really commend this Subcommittee and, frankly, the House Appropriations Committee as a whole. I thought you did a fantastic job last year, not just on this, but the entire process.

It broke my heart that the Senate did not equal your effort. And I predicted when they did not that we would end up with an Omnibus. I also predicted that that would be devastating for science because when you are lumped in an Omnibus and everyone is scrambling for their own vote, science is not well represented. So——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Vern, if I might comment on that. Thank you for your support there.

Our attitude with regard to all these issues, as I said once before, is expressed in the House bill. When we got down to finalizing the bills, the Chairmen on both sides, the House and the Senate, wanted to pass legislation and we had to accommodate the President. And that is the really difficult part of the process. Any support you can give, that certainly would be appreciated.

And we obviously always had to try for a greater allocation for our Subcommittee than we got, but so do all other Subcommittees. So it is a very tight process. But if we could just keep the money that we get in our allocation as we go through the process, we would be able to be far more responsive. And we appreciate your support in that.

Mr. EHLERS. I strongly support that and I was very frustrated last year because you did a superb job in this Subcommittee and in the whole Committee. The Senate bill was also a very good bill.

But the end result is the same thing that happened in the previous Omnibus, that when everyone gets in a room, everyone loves science, but when the money is involved and you start cutting, science is one of the first to go. And that is what happened this time as well as two years ago. And it is very unfortunate. In both cases, it devastated the National Science Foundation.

But particularly in view of that, all of us worked very hard to pass the "America Competes Act." This was the time to begin implementing it and we just set it back at least a year.

So I urge you to fund the NSF next year and the Competes authorized level of 7.32 billion and NIST also at the appropriate amount.

And let me just mention one thing about NIST. Some people frequently ask why do we have to put money into standards. Well, NIST is more than just standards. It is developing new ideas that will lead to new standards. The fact that they won several Nobel Prizes in the last decade, which has never happened by any other nation's standards organization, indicates the quality of their work.

The need for new buildings is evident. I visited the Boulder Laboratories where they have the time standard, the world's time standard. There was a big plastic sheet hanging from the ceiling. I said what is that for. They said every time it rains, water comes in and so we have to divert it away from the time standard. They are in that kind of shape there.

And also individuals say why do we need it, you know, we are accurate now, too, a nanosecond or well beyond a picosecond and so on, and what use is that. And I always like to point out that every time we increase the accuracy of a standard, whether it is

time or other things, industry picks up on that within a few years and they are making new products that they could not make before.

And even color television, which everyone likes, would not have been possible without the development of the more accurate time standards.

So in summary, I respectfully urge you to give high priority to scientific research and development. I hope you will treat it as well as you did last year. And I am also hoping that you will be cooperative in the efforts that are underway in the Congress.

And I have had conversations with Josh Bolton, brief, very brief comments with the President on this, on trying to undo some of the damage the Omnibus did. The obvious place is on the supplemental that will be coming out.

And I know everyone is going to say keep all the extra stuff off the supplemental, but I think we have a very good case that science has been missing out for two years now and that the supplemental would be a place to at least try to make up for some of the damage. At the very least, get the DOE in place back on the payroll instead of collecting unemployment compensation, but also NIST and NSF so they can run their budgets in a normal manner.

And I really do appreciate what you have done. We had a great hearing last year. We had a good conversation, as you will recall, and you cannot believe how much this means to the scientific community. They were just overjoyed. They met with me afterwards, after your bills came out, and just very overjoyed at what you had done.

So it is why they noticed and why they appreciate it, unfortunately by only a small band of scientists compared to the general populace. But you know what is right and I am sure you will do it.

Thank you.

[Written testimony of Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers.]

STATEMENT OF

THE HONORABLE VERNON J. EHLERS
MEMBER
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hearing on the FY 2009 Commerce, Justice and Science Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
Wednesday, April 2 at 10:00am
H-309 Capitol Building

Thank you, Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, for the opportunity to testify before you today. As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education and as a member of the House Committee on Science and Technology, I work with Chairman Baird and my colleagues to support and strengthen several agencies of great importance to our nation's technological innovation capacity. The core of that capacity depends on basic research, and to that end I believe a vigorous research base is crucial to our national economic security. To that end, **I ask you to give high priority to scientific research and development and math and science education in fiscal year 2009 by funding the National Science Foundation (NSF) at $7.3 billion and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) laboratories at $882 million.**

In FY07, the President introduced a plan known as the American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) that sought to double the research budgets of the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Standards and Technology and the Department of Energy's Office of Science over the next ten years. The NSF and NIST were included in the ACI because they conduct world-class research in areas that support new, innovative technologies, which in turn lead to advances in telecommunications, homeland security, alternative energy and others areas of great importance to our nation.

The Science and Technology Committee crafted authorization bills for the NSF and NIST that set these agencies on a pathway to double their budgets by the year 2017. This work culminated in the passage of the COMPETES Act. In conference, I was pleased that the pathway for the NSF doubling was accelerated to a seven instead of ten-year pathway. The House and Senate strongly endorsed fundamental research and education in the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills, but I understand you were faced with very challenging spending decisions in the final FY08 omnibus bill. Consequently, funding for FY08 fell short of the levels passed by the House for the COMPETES Act agencies.

These agencies still received funding increases in fiscal year 2008 when compared to fiscal year 2007. Nonetheless, I believe that our bipartisan commitment to science research and education must not waver between authorizations and appropriations. As other nations are significantly increasing their funding of basic research, the U.S. must recognize that leadership in science and technology is not something we can take for granted.

For that reason, I urge you to fund the NSF in FY09 at the COMPETES' authorized level of $7.32 billion. The funding will allow for new innovative technologies to be developed by NSF scientists and engineers and support the scientific literacy of our nation. As a testament to the importance of NSF, **135 of my colleagues co-signed a letter endorsing this request,** and it is my hope that you will seriously consider funding NSF at this level.

Last but not least, NIST is one of our nation's most critical science organizations. Almost every Federal agency and U.S. industry sector uses the standards, measurements, and certification services that NIST labs provide. The future of many cutting-edge technologies depends on the research and technical expertise of NIST. Emerging fields such as nanotechnology, quantum computing, and bioengineering will not mature into U.S. job-creating industries and markets without the existence of scientifically-based industrial standards. There is no other U.S. organization, public or private, with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide these highly technical services in a non-discriminatory manner.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is that you provide $882 million in fiscal year 2009 for the Scientific and Technical Research Services (STRS), Construction of Research Facilities (CRF), and Industrial Technology Services accounts at NIST. This amount is the level necessary for NIST laboratories to continue their vital contribution to our national economy and security and allow for improvements in NIST facilities. $882 million also includes the COMPETES' Act authorized funding the important Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program and Technology Innovation Program (TIP). These last two programs help our small companies compete in the global economy and depleting them would represent a blow to innovation.

In summary, I respectfully urge you to give high priority to scientific research and development and math and science education in fiscal year 2009 by funding NSF at $7.3 billion and NIST at $882 million.

My staff and I would be happy to help answer any further questions you have about these priorities as you prepare the subcommittee's appropriations bill. I appreciate your leadership in these areas and on the difficult funding decisions facing the Congress this year. I look forward to continuing to work with you on these issues. Thank you again for allowing me to testify today.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, we share your feelings about that. You are the second distinguished scientist to testify before us this year advocating increased funding for NIST.

Dr. Marburger advocated not in his presentation but in his response to some questions if he were to increase in any area above the President's request, it would be in NIST significantly.

However, I need to point out that was not reflected in the President's request. So Dr. Marburger advocated that to the Administration before the request came forward. He was not successful.

So we very much appreciate your testimony and it reinforces his on all of these topics. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. EHLERS. Well, thank you. And they are very important parts of NIST, too, in terms of MAP and TIP.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, he advocated significant increased funding for NIST.

Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Yes. As a matter fact, the Chairman was able to elicit from him, I guess it was for the record, that if he had his way, he would triple NIST's budget——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Yeah.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN [continuing]. Which I thought was significant. But thank you for being relentless. I do not like to view you as a predictor, though. We view you in a more positive sense than a predictor.

Mr. EHLERS. I hope so.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I hope we can do better.

Mr. EHLERS. And I will be happy to remain relentless as long as you do not consider me a nuisance.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. No. Thank God you are out there poking and prodding and, you know, doing what you need to do.

Mr. EHLERS. Well, thank you. And I recognize that both of you have been doing this for a long time, too, so just got to get our team working.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Vernon.

Mr. EHLERS. Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Next the Committee would like to welcome Richard DeVoe testifying on behalf of the Sea Grant Program.

Mr. DeVoe.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

SEA GRANT PROGRAM

WITNESS

RICHARD DeVOE, SEA GRANT ASSOCIATION'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. DEVOE. Good morning, Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen. My name is Rick DeVoe. I am the Executive Director of the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, but I am here in my capacity as Chair of the Sea Grant Association's External Relations Committee.

It is my pleasure to be here and represent our national-wide network of Sea Grant professionals. And it is with great appreciation

that we acknowledge your leadership and the Subcommittee's history of support for the National Sea Grant College Program.

I also thank you for including our written testimony in the official record.

The Sea Grant Association represents the combined capabilities of over 300 university and research institutions nationwide in our National Sea Grant College Program. SGA enables these institutions to coordinate their activities, to prioritize action at the regional and national levels, and to offer a unified voice on critical coastal, ocean, and great lakes issues.

Just as our nation's land grant institutions have evolutionized agriculture so, too, are the Sea Grant Colleges steering our nation toward the productive and sustainable uses of our coastal, ocean, and great lakes resources through integrated and competitive programs of scientific research, education and training, and technical assistance.

The Sea Grant Association joins with the greater ocean and coastal community in acknowledging NOAA's critical stewardship role related to our nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

And the SGA along with our colleagues from the Friends of NOAA Coalition, whom you will hear from later, urge the Subcommittee to support NOAA in line with the $4.5 billion recommendation proposed by the House Ocean Caucus.

This funding for NOAA would restore support for many of NOAA's core programs, rebuild vital observation programs, and enable NOAA to address the many other critical and emerging issues germane to its mission.

I would now like to comment on the National Sea Grant College Program and our recommendation for resources it needs in fiscal year 2009.

In recent years, funding for the Sea Grant Program has not kept pace with the extraordinary growth in coastal population development and the concomitant increase in demands for Sea Grant products and services by our coastal constituencies.

As part of our written testimony, we included a list of a number of stakeholders and supporters and beneficiaries of our activities.

For fiscal year 2008, the Sea Grant's budget of $57.1 million represents a four percent increase over fiscal year 2007 and the first increase the program has received since fiscal year 2005 for which we thank the Subcommittee.

However, the Administration's budget for Sea Grant in fiscal year 2009 is 55 million, eliminating this growth at a time when the NOAA budget as a whole is proposed to grow by five percent.

At the fiscal year 2009 level proposed by the Administration, the Sea Grant Program would be asked to operate at is lowest level in its 42 year history in 2007 dollars. Sea Grant's appropriations are over 20 percent below the buying power of its 1980 level and we have seen staff reductions on the order of 25 percent in some Sea Grant College programs.

These declining trends are not helpful to a program that is required to match its federal funding with state and other nonfederal funding. When the federal share declines so, too, does our ability to leverage this nonfederal support.

To begin to reverse these trends, the SGA recommends that the National Sea Grant College Program be funded in fiscal year 2009 at a level of $72 million, a level well within our existing authorization and consistent with a Dear Colleague letter recently signed by over 30 House Members from states with Sea Grant programs.

At this level, Sea Grant will be able to address many of the critical issues identified in a new interagency ocean research priorities plan and a growing number of critical challenges facing our coastal regions, states, and communities related to sustainable development, ecosystem health, natural hazard resiliency, and sustainable and safe seafood.

Let me quickly elaborate on two of these areas. Related to sustainable coastal development, population growth along our coasts has transformed and greatly intensified demand on the nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

New housing developments, energy development activities, port expansions, and other business activities are bringing more people and jobs to the nation's coastal regions. This has increased the pressure on coastal ecosystems, water quality and supply, and traditional coastal businesses.

To accommodate this growth, maintain and enhance ecosystem health, and ensure quality of life for our citizens, Sea Grant and its role of an objective broker of science-based information is well-positioned to assist in the development of new policies, management approaches, and sustainable practices to balance coastal growth with marine resource conservation.

The other area I would like to hit on is sustainable and safe seafood. The nation has witnessed a decline of its commercial fisheries at the same time that domestic seafood consumption is on the rise, resulting in a national seafood trade deficit of about $9 million a year.

Overfishing, habitat degradation and increasing competition have put our nation's fishing industry in great jeopardy. Seafood safety is a growing concern as international trade increases and fish diseases and contamination become bigger problems.

And while aquaculture production can satisfy some of the consumer demand, it must be conducted in a sustainable and economically viable manner.

The Sea Grant is well-suited to play a significant role in generating science-based information to support informed decision-making and resource management and foster economic development in the industry, leading to an enhanced sustainable supply of safe seafood for our citizens.

In conclusion, the Sea Grant Association has a vision for Sea Grant to become NOAA's primary university-based research, education, and technical assistance program in support of marine resource use, management, and conservation.

We believe the funding levels we are recommending for NOAA and the Sea Grant Program within NOAA move Sea Grant into a position where it can achieve its vision, better address the ever increasing demands for Sea Grant products and services, and help NOAA meets its environmental and resource management responsibilities, particularly at the regional and state levels.

We recognize the Subcommittee has many legitimate competing needs and the resources available are very limited. However, we believe Sea Grant provides an excellent return on investment by generating and applying user-driven, science-based information to address critical needs throughout our nation's coastal regions.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to be here before you today and will be glad to answer any questions that you may have.

[Written testimony of M. Richard DeVoe, Chair, Sea Grant Association.]

Sea Grant Association

Official Written Testimony for Fiscal Year 2009
Submitted to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Submitted by M. Richard DeVoe
Chair, Sea Grant Association External Relations Committee
March 28, 2008

The Sea Grant Association (SGA)[1] respectfully submits for the official record this written testimony for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science. ***SGA joins with other stakeholders in urging the Subcommittee to recognize and support the vital programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and requests that the Subcommittee fund NOAA at $4.5 billion for FY 2009. Further, SGA requests that within the overall FY 2009 appropriation for NOAA, the Subcommittee appropriate $72 million for the National Sea Grant College Program***, which is a key component of NOAA's extramural research, education and outreach enterprise playing a direct role in keeping our coastal communities safe, prosperous, and vibrant.

Growth of the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) has been stunted during that last few years, which over time has begun to directly impact the services delivered on a daily basis to our coastal communities. The constituents of the Sea Grant program – coastal resource managers, state and local governments, tourism sectors, fishing industries, and the general public to name a few – have come to expect and rely on a certain level of service and expertise from the Sea Grant program. However, as the needs of our coastal communities have increased, funding required for the Sea Grant program to support these needs has not kept pace. The SGA recommendation of $72 million is realistic and even represents an amount below that which is authorized for the program for FY 2004[2]. The programmatic request of $72 million is also consistent with the amount requested in a Dear Colleague Letter for Sea Grant that was submitted to your Subcommittee earlier this month with 32 signatures. In addition, attached is a list of about 300 stakeholders who attest to the value of the Sea Grant program.

With the costs of research and education rising, the near flat-funding of Sea Grant during the last few years has forced programs to reduce staff and leave numerous high-quality research and outreach projects unsupported. An increased investment in Sea Grant will not only enhance its ability to meet these additional demands, it will also leverage additional state and university matching funds, reflecting its unique value as a federal-state partnership.

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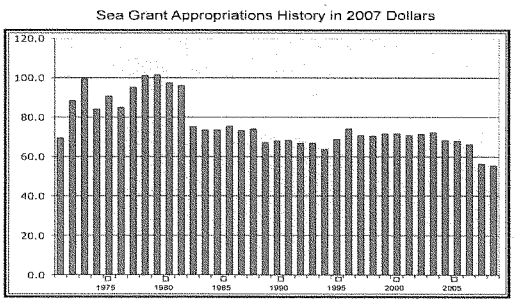
[1] The ***Sea Grant Association*** is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the Sea Grant program concept. The SGA's regular membership consists of the academic institutions that participate in the National Sea Grant College Program, located within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). SGA provides the mechanism for these institutions to coordinate their activities, to set program priorities at both the regional and national level, and to provide a unified voice for these institutions on issues of importance to the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. The SGA advocates for greater understanding, use, and conservation of marine, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

[2] National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002, P.L. 107-299

The Administration's request of $55 million for FY 2009 would reverse the small progress made by the program last year by eliminating the modest growth provided by the Congress for FY 2008 (for a total FY 2008 budget of $57.1 million). At the level proposed by the Administration, the Sea Grant program would be asked to operate at its lowest level in its 40 year history in 2007 dollars (see the below chart).



The implications of what is essentially a freeze in funding for Sea Grant are significant with respect to the economy, sustainability of natural resources, and national safety and security. The Sea Grant network is severely strained and challenged to support its current activities, staff, and operations within this budget scenario, and has difficulty investing in important new research, education and outreach geared toward addressing emerging challenges in such areas as regional climate change and coastal community resiliency.

At present, only about 12 percent of the research proposals submitted for funding to the Sea Grant program are funded due to resource constraints. By contrast, the research funding success rate at the National Science Foundation is just over 20 percent. Sea Grant directors estimate that they receive enough high quality meritorious research proposals – of importance and relevance to NOAA's mission – to fund about 25 percent, or double what the program is currently able to support. Within the current budget for Sea Grant of $57.1 million, about $30 million is used to support research. The balance of the Sea Grant budget is used to support related extension, communication, education and program management. Based on this, the research portion of the Sea Grant program could responsibly manage between $60 million to $80 million annually – or double its current research budget. At this level, the Sea Grant program could support important research proposals that currently go unfunded to answer questions and provide new knowledge needed by ocean and coastal resource managers.

It is also important to remember that the success of the Sea Grant program is attributable to its unique ability to intimately tie research results to an extension, communication, and education process that is essential to ensure the use of science to meet the needs of our citizens. The current level of expenditure for extension, communication, and education in the Sea Grant program is approximately $25 million. A recent report to the NOAA Science Advisory Board[3] called on NOAA to substantially expand its extension, outreach, and education activities. Sea Grant has the experience and the "on-the-ground" network to fulfill that policy recommendation

[3] Engaging NOAA's Constituents: A Report from the NOAA Science Advisory Board, March 2008

immediately if sufficient additional support from NOAA were forthcoming. As the research program expands to meet increasing demands, so too must the tools that put the research results in the hands of decision makers so that they can be utilized. The Sea Grant extension, communication, and education function should be increased commensurate with the level of research funding in the program from its current $25 million to between $40 million to $50 million to ensure the continued balanced approach when it comes to research, extension, communication, and education.

Sea Grant—An Investment in the Economic, Environmental and Social Well-being of the Nation

Research and outreach programs supported by Sea Grant are based on competition, undergo rigorous peer-review, and are geared toward addressing the marine, coastal and Great Lakes challenges that face our citizens. The federal investment in Sea Grant enables a nationally coordinated network embedded in the best research universities to apply unparalleled intellectual capital to address these problems and opportunities while assisting NOAA in addressing its missions. Cost-effectiveness is enhanced by access to existing university management infrastructure.

Sea Grant serves the nation in many ways. Sea Grant's unmatched access to regional, state and local constituencies through its extension and outreach programs ensures that the federal investment is targeted at relevant issues. The Sea Grant model contributes to the missions of NOAA and other federal agencies, and state and local governments, to the benefit of the general public. In addition, marine education programs supported by Sea Grant funds reach from kindergarten to marine-related business people to elder hostels.

Sea Grant is a national program addressing national, regional, state and local needs. It is a partnership among government, academia, business, industry, scientists, and private citizens to help Americans understand and wisely use our precious coastal waters and Great Lakes for enjoyment and long-term economic growth. This network unites 32 Programs, over 300 universities, and millions of people. Sea Grant is an agent for scientific discovery, technology transfer, economic growth, resource conservation, and public education. It is government as our citizens want it – visible, tangible, relevant, efficient, and effective.

Sea Grant—Informing Smart Policy through Sound Science

The interface between science and policy is precisely where the Sea Grant program applies its precious resources. As the program makes decisions on the funding of research projects, issues that are acutely important to local, regional and national decision-makers receive priority attention. Extension and educational resources are also deployed in ways that enhance the relevance and impact of the science and discoveries that result from Sea Grant–funded research.

There is a growing demand from our nation's decision makers and public for scientifically-sound decisions to many of today's complex problems. Sea Grant's integration of science and outreach allows for up-to-date and ongoing needs assessment that helps identify the most important and timely issues that benefit from science-based decision making. Technological and scientific approaches, though desirable, cannot solve all of society's problems, and Sea Grant's ability to

embed itself within the communities it serves enables the social dynamics of human ecology to be incorporated thereby improving the utility and impact of investments through the Sea Grant program. Sea Grant's work is always fresh. Although the program has been in place for 40 years, the constant attention to societal needs through stakeholder interactions allows the program to be nimble and responsive, while also maintaining the rigor and reliability of a strategic enterprise.

In recent years, the work of two major national commissions[4] have brought into focus the importance of our oceans and coasts to our nation's natural heritage, security, and economy. With an offshore ocean jurisdiction larger than the total land mass of the United States, U.S. waters support rich and diverse systems of ocean life, provide a protective buffer, and support important commerce, trade, energy, and mineral resources. And in each example, Sea Grant is there.

- More than $1 trillion, or one-tenth, of the nation's annual gross domestic product (GDP) is generated within near-shore areas, the relatively narrow strip of land immediately adjacent to the coast. Looking at all coastal watershed counties, the contribution swells to over $6.1 trillion, more than half of the nation's GDP;

- In 2003, ocean-related economic activity contributed more than $119 billion to American prosperity and supported over 2.2 million jobs. Roughly three-quarters of the jobs and half the economic value were produced by ocean-related tourism and recreation. More than 13 million jobs are related to trade transported by the network of inland waterways and ports that support U.S. waterborne commerce;

- Annually, the nation's ports handle more than $700 billion in goods, and the cruise industry and its passengers account for $11 billion in spending;

- The commercial fishing industry's total value exceeds $28 billion annually, with the recreational saltwater fishing industry valued at around $20 billion, and the annual U.S. retail trade in ornamental fish worth another $3 billion; and

- Nationwide retail expenditures on recreational boating exceeded $30 billion in 2002.

The SGA recognizes and appreciates the difficult funding tradeoffs the Subcommittee is forced to make each year. We urge you to consider Sea Grant as an investment in the future health and well-being of our coastal communities and support the program at $72 million for FY 2009. Thank you for the opportunity to present these views.

For more information, please visit www.sga.seagrant.org or contact:

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Joel Widder, Government Relations, 202.289.7475, jwidder@lewis-burke.com

[4] An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, April 20, 2004;
America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change, Pew Oceans Commission, June 2, 2003

Sea Grant Stakeholders, Beneficiaries and Supporters

Acme Smoked Fish Corporation, Brooklyn, New York
Acme Sponge and Chamois, Inc., Tarpon Springs, Florida
Alabama Seafood Association
Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition
The Albatross Fleet, Foster's Quay, Hatteras, North Carolina
Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries
American Fishermen's Research Foundation
American Great Lakes Ports Association, representing:
- *Duluth Seaway Port Authority*
- *Port of Superior, Wisconsin*
- *Port of Green Bay, Wisconsin*
- *Port of Milwaukee*
- *Illinois International Port District*
- *Ports of Indiana - Burns Harbor*
- *Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority*
- *Port of Monroe, Michigan*
- *Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority*
- *Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority*
- *Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority*
- *Port of Oswego Authority*

American Shore & Beach Preservation Association
Angler Conservation Education, Ormond Beach, Florida
Apalachicola Bay Oyster Dealer's Association, Apalachicola, Florida
Aquarium of Niagara, Niagara Falls, New York
Aquatic Release Conservation, Ormond Beach, Florida
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, Portsmouth, Rhode Island
Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association, Bedford, New Hampshire
At-Sea Processors Association, Seattle, Washington
Avon Lake Boat Club, Ohio
Aylesworth Foundation for the Advancement of Marine Science, St. Petersburg, Florida
Aylesworth's Fish & Bait, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida
Bay Area Resource Council, Pensacola, Florida
Beaver Street Fisheries, Jacksonville, Florida
BIOFlorida, West Palm Beach, Florida
Blackbrook Audubon Society, Ohio
Board of Millcreek Township Supervisors, Erie, Pennsylvania
Boating Association of Ohio
Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse Inc., Tampa, Florida
Borough of Belmar, New Jersey, Mayor Kenneth E. Pringle
Bossange Boat, Inc.
Bozzuto's Inc.
Brett's Fish Farm/Texas Sportfish and Koi Breeders, Liverpool, Texas
Brevard Marine Advisory Council, Cocoa, Florida
Brightwater Seafood Company, Charlotte, North Carolina
California Aquaculture Association
California Fisheries & Seafood Institute
California Salmon Council
California Shellfish Producers Association
Captree Clam Company, Babylon, New York
Carla's Pasta, South Windsor, Connecticut
Carlsbad Aquafarm, Inc.
Carteret Community College, Morehead City, North Carolina
Casey's Seafood Inc., Newport News, Virginia
Catalina Offshore Products
Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, Inc., Cedar Key, Florida
Center for the Inland Bays, Delaware
Central Basin Charterboat Association
Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute
The Chesapeake Bay Commission
The Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association
Citizens For Florida's Waterways, Merritt Island, Florida
City of Bayfield, Wisconsin, Mayor Larry MacDonald
City of Barrou La Batre Port Authority, Alabama
City of Huron Parks & Recreation, Ohio
City of Jamaica Beach, Texas, Mayor Victor Pearson
City of Mentor, Ohio Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve & Marine
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, Mayor John Piskura
City of Sylvania, Ohio Community Improvement Corporation
Clemons Boats
Cleveland Botanical Gardens
Cleveland Fishing Association
Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ohio
Connecticut Commercial Lobstermen's Association
Connecticut Seafood Council
Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland
Cordova Fishermen United, Anchorage, Alaska
Coastal Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Austin, Texas
CRG Marine Laboratories, Inc.
Dana Wharf Sportfishing
Darden Restaurants, Orlando, Florida
Dauphin Island, Alabama, Mayor Jeff Collier
Dawson's Seafood
Delaware County Planning Department
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Shoreline and Waterway Management Section
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Water Resources, Watershed Management Section
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Delaware River Yachtsmen's League
Delaware's Center for the Inland Bays
Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experiences
Dewberry-Federal Programs, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina
Doxsee Sea Clam Company, Point Lookout, New York
Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, Metro Detroit Area, Michigan
Duluth Seaway Port Authority, Duluth, Minnesota
Duluth Shipping News
Duval Audubon Society, Jacksonville, Florida
East Coast Shellfish Growers Association
Empire Marine Trades Association
Environmental Products for Important Causes, Inc.
Farallon Fisheries
First Energy, Toledo, Ohio
Fishermen's News, Seattle, Washington
FISHTECH Inc.
Fishtown Preservation Society, Leland, Michigan
Florida Clean Boating Partnership
Florida Guides Association
Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
Florida Marine Contractors Association, Merritt Island, Florida
Florida Outdoor Writers Association
Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association
Flow Science, Inc.
Franklin County Oyster & Seafood Task Force, Apalachicola, Florida
Fresher Than Fresh, Inc., Gastonia, North Carolina
Friends of Stone Laboratory, Ohio
Genesee Charter Boat Association, Rochester, New York
Goeden Fisheries
Graham and Rollins Inc., Hampton, Virginia
Great Lakes Historical Society
Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council
Haasch Guide Service, Algoma, Wisconsin
Harborcreek, Pennsylvania, Township Supervisor Dean S. Papicello
Harlingen Shrimp Farms, Ltd., Harlingen, Texas
Jeremy Harris, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu 1994-2004
Hawaii Aquaculture Association
Holland American Line, Anchorage, Alaska
Holiday Harbor Marina, Inc., Ohio
Houston Underwater Club, Houston, Texas
Huron Lagoons Marina, Ohio
Impact Assessment, Inc.
Institute for Fisheries Resources
Institution Food House, Inc., Hickory, North Carolina
Integrated Marine Systems, LLC
The Jersey Shore Partnership, Red Bank, New Jersey
Juneau Borough Schools, Juneau, Alaska
Paul Kelly, Member, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Consultant, Rowan Industries, Houston, Texas
Kent SeaTech
King Fisher Fleet, Punta Gorda, Florida
Lake Carriers' Association, representing:
- *American Steamship Company*
- *Armstrong Steamship Company*
- *Bell Steamship Company*
- *Central Marine Logistics, Inc.*
- *GLF Great Lakes Fleet Corp.*
- *Grand River Navigation Company, Inc.*
- *Great Lakes Fleet, Inc. / Key Lakes, Inc.*
- *HMC Ship Management, Ltd.*
- *Inland Lakes Management, Inc.*
- *The Interlake Steamship Company*
- *KK Integrated Logistics*
- *Lake Michigan Carferry Service, Inc.*
- *Lakes Shipping Company, Inc.*
- *Pere Marquette Shipping Company*
- *Soo Marine Supply, Inc.*
- *Upper Lakes Towing Company, Inc.*
- *VanEnkevort Tug & Barge, Inc.*
- *Wisconsin & Michigan Steamship Company*

Lake County Planning Commission
Lake Erie Chapter Federation of Fly Fishers, New York
Lake Erie Charter Boat Association
Lake Erie Coastal Ohio, Inc.
Lake Erie Marine Trades Association
Lake Erie Shores & Islands Sandusky Area Welcome Center
Lake Erie Walleye Magazine and www.walleye.com
Leavin's Seafood, Apalachicola, Florida
Lone Star Aquafarms, Palacios, Texas
Lone Star Hatchery, Inc., Rio Hondo, Texas
Lorain County Visitors Bureau, Ohio
Luck Shrimp Farm, Rio Hondo, Texas
Lucky 7 Sportfishing Charters, Hamburg, New York
Lynde Point Land Trust, Fenwick, Connecticut
Maine Aquaculture Association
Maine Harbormasters Association
Maine Lobstermen's Association
Marine Exchange of Southern California, San Pedro, California
Marine Industries Association of Northeast
Florida, St. Augustine, Florida
Marine Industries Association of Florida
The Marine Trades Association of Maryland
Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, Manasquan, New Jersey
The Maritime Aquarium
The Maritime Archaeological Survey Team, Inc., Ohio
Maritime Products International, Newport News, Virginia
Marsh Area Regional Coalition
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Massachusetts Shellfish Aquaculture Association
Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association
Dr. Michael Masser, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, (Past-president) World Aquaculture Society
Mattamuskeet Seafood Company, Swan Quarter, North Carolina
Mentor Marsh Board of Management, Ohio
Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, Detroit, Michigan
Michael Shrimp Farm, Rio Hondo, Texas
Michigan Boating Industries Association
Michigan Charter Boat Association
Michigan Fish Producers Association
Michigan Salmon and Steelhead Fishermen's Association
Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association
Minnesota Fish and Bait Farmers Association, New London, Minnesota
Mississippi Charter Boat Captains Association
Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board, Monroe County, New York
Monterey Abalone Company
Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration, Connecticut
National Aquaculture Association
National Fisheries Institute, Arlington, Virginia
National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office, Philadelphia/Mount Holly
The Nature Conservancy
New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association
New York Power Authority, White Plains, New York
New York Sea Grant Program Advisory Council
New York Seafood Council, Hampton Bays, New York
Noisette Company, LLC, North Charleston, South Carolina
Nonquest Seafoods, Seattle, Washington
North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterways Association, Oak Island, North Carolina
North Carolina Coastal Federation
North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Carteret County, North Carolina
North Carolina Fishermen's Association, Carteret County
North Carolina Sea Grant Advisory Board
North Carolina Shellfish Growers Association
North Carolina Watermen United, Hatteras, North Carolina
North Pacific Longline Association
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
Northwest Marine Trade Association, Seattle Washington
Ocean Garden Products, Inc.
Ohio Bass Federation
Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders
Ohio Fish & Wildlife Management Association
Ohio Fish Producers Association
The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance
Ohio Wine Producers
Old Salt Fishing Foundation, St. Petersburg, Florida
Organized Seafood Association of Alabama
Ottawa County Visitors Bureau, Ohio
Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Olympia, Washington
Pamlico Packing Company, Grantsboro, North Carolina
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Pennsylvania Industries Association Aquaculture Council, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Penn State Philadelphia Outreach Center, Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Water Department, Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center
Pollock Conservation Cooperative, Seattle, Washington
Port of Long Beach, Long Beach, California
Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro, California
Portsmouth Fishermen's Cooperative, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Proteus SeaFarms International, Inc.
Publix Supermarkets, Lakeland, Florida
R&B Aquatic Supply, Boerne, Texas
Reed Mariculture
Reveille and the Zande Companies
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, Wakefield, Rhode Island
Rhode Island Commercial Fisheries Center:
- *Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association*
- *Ocean State Fishermen's Association*
- *R.I. Commercial Fishermen's Association*

Riverside Kayak connection, LLC, Wyandotte, Michigan
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Naples, Florida
San Diego Oceans Foundation
San Diego Watermen's Association
Sandusky Charter Boat Association, Ohio
Sandusky/Erie County Visitors and Convention Bureau, Ohio
SaverOn Seafood, St. Petersburg, Florida
SCDHEC-Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Charleston, South Carolina
Scenic Galveston, Galveston, Texas
S.C. Shrimper's Association, St. Helena Island, South Carolina
Sea Food Suppliers
Seafood Products Association
Shoreline and Waterway Management Section Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Shrimp News International, San Diego, California
Sima Marine, Ohio
Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
South Cuyahoga Sportsman's Association (SCSA), Ohio
South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA), Charleston, South Carolina
South Carolina Seafood Alliance, Charleston, South Carolina
South Carolina State Ports Authority, Charleston, South Carolina
Southern Delaware Tourism
Southern New England Fishermen and Lobstermen's Association
Southern Ohio Marine Trades Association
Southern Shrimp Alliance
Southern Star, Inc., DBA Arroyo Aqua Farms, Rio Hondo, Texas
Southtowns Walleye Association of Western NY, Inc.
Southwest Florida Marine Industries Association
Stan Stephens Glacier and Wildlife Cruises, Valdez, Alaska
St Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, Inc., St. Augustine, Florida
Strom Thurmond Institute-Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina
Tank Hollow, Poteet, Texas
Taylor Shellfish, Shelton, Washington
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
Texas Aquaculture Cooperative, Marlburn, Texas
Tierra Environmental Services, Inc.
TTI-Blakemore Fishing Group
Titusville Municipal Marina, Titusville, Florida
United Boatmen of NY
University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
U.S. Steel Corporation, Ecorse, Michigan
Virginia Seafood Council
Wanchese Fish Company, Wanchese, North Carolina
Town of Waterford, Connecticut
West Cleveland Walleye Association
West Coast Inland Navigation District, Venice, Florida
West Coast Seafood Processors Association
Western Basin Sportfishing Association, Ohio
Western Fishboat Owners Association
Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida, Pensacola, Florida
World Aquaculture Society Home Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Yacht Brokers of Sandusky, Ohio

** The above organizations and individuals represent the stakeholders and constituents of the National Sea Grant College Program via their local state Sea Grant programs and have expressed support for an annual appropriation of $72 million for the program.*

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Dr. DeVoe.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you very much for your testimony.

Mr. DEVOE. Thank you very much.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you.

The Committee would like to next welcome Dr. Philip R. Jewell, who will testify on behalf of the National Radio Astronomy Conservatory.

Dr. Jewell, welcome to the hearing.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

ASTRONOMY

WITNESS

PHILIP R. JEWELL, NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY CONSERVATORY

Mr. JEWELL. Good morning, Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen. My name is Philip Jewell. I am the Deputy Director of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, a National Science Foundation research facility operated under a cooperative agreement with the Associated Universities, Incorporated.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the NSF's fiscal year 2009 budget request. Specifically I would like to address NSF's support of astronomy programs.

I stand in strong support of the Administration's proposed increase for NSF overall providing a total of $6.9 billion in fiscal year 2009, but urge a greater emphasis on astronomical research specifically.

In the past, this Subcommittee has provided tremendous support for NSF. Clearly this Subcommittee recognizes the critical need for continued development of our nation's basic research program.

However, last year's fiscal year 2008 appropriations process actually reduced the collective support of these programs below the fiscal year 2007 level. The consequence of this action means that institutions across the country are conducting less research in areas like astronomy.

NRAO is funded mostly by NSF's Astronomy Division and provides state-of-the-art, large radio telescope facilities for use by the scientific community including scientists from your districts.

With these federal funds, NRAO manages and operates the nation's premier radio astronomy facilities, including the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope in West Virginia, the very large array in Socorro, New Mexico, the very long baseline array which is spread across ten states and territories, and is controlled in Socorro, New Mexico.

In addition, NRAO is currently engaged in the development of the next generation astronomical instrument, AUMA, which is an international project being developed by the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan, and Chile.

Together these facilities will be at the forefront of 21st century astrophysics and will facilitate cutting-edge research that will answer fundamental questions such as how the universe began and how it will evolve.

In addition to answering basic scientific questions, U.S. investment in radio astronomy research and technology continues to yield significant dividends for U.S. competitiveness and improve technologies nationally such as precision location of 911 cell phone calls and medical and scientific imaging.

I submit to you that the future economic health and well-being of the nation is dependent upon the creation of new knowledge and a trained workforce. Our U.S. astronomy facilities lead the world in new scientific discoveries and engage bright young people in a quest to understand the mysteries of the universe.

NRAO facilities stimulate a fascination in school children that will lead them to technical studies required for the new economy. For instance, in West Virginia, a unique collaboration between the Green Bank Observatory and West Virginia Universities allows school children in the state to participate firsthand in fundamental scientific research.

As a result of the increasing demands of management, scientific operations, and maintenance of world-class radio astronomy facilities operated by NRAO, it is essential that NSF overall and the Astronomy Program in particular grow to sustain U.S. leadership in radio astronomy.

We cannot afford to lose our edge. It is not too late, but it soon could be. With this in mind, I want to express my sincere hope that our nation continues to sustain the healthy development of our nation's basic research program and that this Subcommittee continues to support the leadership on behalf of science through increased funding for the NSF and NSF astronomy.

I thank you for allowing me to speak to you this morning and look forward to answering any questions that you might have.

[Written testimony of Dr. Philip R. Jewell, Deputy Director, National Radio Astronomy Observatory.]

Testimony of

Dr. Philip R. Jewell
Deputy Director
National Radio Astronomy Observatory

before the

House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science

H-309 U.S. Capitol
Wednesday, April 2, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of NSF's FY 2009 budget request. Specifically, I would like to address NSF's support for astronomy programs. I stand in strong support for the Administration's proposed increase ($822 million) for NSF overall ($6.9 billion) in the FY 2009 budget request, but urge a greater emphasis on astronomical research specifically.

My name is Philip Jewell. I am the Deputy Director of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), a National Science Foundation (NSF) research facility operated under a cooperative agreement with Associated Universities, Inc. NRAO provides state-of-the-art large radio telescope facilities for use by the scientific community. Scientists from around the world use our facilities to study virtually all types of astronomical objects known, from planets and comets in our own Solar System to quasars and galaxies billions of light-years away.

Before turning to the FY 2009 request I would like to address last year's funding levels and the ongoing FY 2008 negotiations.

FY 2008 Funding and Competitiveness and Innovation

In the past, this Subcommittee has provided tremendous support for NSF. Clearly, this Subcommittee recognizes the critical need for continued development of our nation's basic research program. Last year the Congress passed with overwhelming bipartisan support the America COMPETES Act, which authorizes substantial growth for research and education activities at NSF and DOE. This action was driven by recommendations contained in the National Academies' report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," which documented the connection between basic research and economic growth, a connection that other countries have also accepted and are acting upon vigorously.

Despite the enactment of this legislation – and the supporting documentation provided in the "Gathering Storm" report and other similar reports -- the fiscal year 2008 appropriations process actually reduced the collective support for these programs below the FY 2007 level. The consequence of this action means that institutions across the country are conducting less research and supporting fewer people (scientists, post-docs, and graduate and undergraduate students) in areas related to astronomy, energy, advanced computing, engineering, and climate change.

We recognize that the Congress was confronted with difficult choices to make within a constrained budget environment. However, we also believe that the future economic health and well being of the nation is dependent upon the creation of new knowledge and a trained workforce produced by our universities. For example, our U.S. astronomy facilities lead the world in new scientific discoveries and engage bright young people in a quest to understand the mysteries of the universe. This quest for knowledge drives innovation and the development of new technologies for the benefit of the nation.

The "outputs" of the United States scientific enterprise are used by the private sector to deliver economic growth that benefits our citizens with 21st century employment opportunities, and new products and services in areas such as health care, energy independence, the environment,

aviation, transportation, and agriculture. The current investment and developments in radio astronomy specifically portend tremendous benefits in the near future for competitiveness, including: advancement in modeling and simulation across scientific disciplines; new methodologies in distributed computation and archival systems; more accurate weather and climate prediction; increased capabilities with intelligent manufacturing; improved design of safe and effective pharmaceuticals; and enhanced sensor and detection device capability.

As the Congress moves to enact necessary supplemental appropriations for a number of critically important activities, we urge you and your colleagues to see an investment in research and education with an equal sense of urgency and importance.

NSF's FY 2009 Budget Request and Astronomy

Turning to the FY 2009 request, I stand in strong support for the Administration's proposed increase for NSF overall but urge a greater emphasis on astronomical research specifically.

The fundamental purpose of astronomical research is to study the nature of the universe in which we live. This research seeks to answer some of the biggest questions we can ask, such as how did the universe begin and evolve? What is the origin of the galaxies and stars? Is our solar system unique? As the science that provides the framework of knowledge of where we, and the planet on which we live, fit into the environment of the universe, astronomy is a vital part of human culture.

In addition to answering fundamental scientific questions, U.S. investment in radio astronomy research and technology, in particular, continues to yield significant dividends for U.S. competitiveness and improved technologies nationally. Past developments in radio astronomy techniques and technology have been used in a number of practical applications outside traditional radio astronomy, including: improvement in time and frequency standards; precision location of cell phone 911 calls; and medical and scientific imaging devices.

The future for both radio astronomy and its contributions throughout the U.S. economy are limitless and with increased investment will serve both current and newly developed U.S. technologies in tremendous fashion.

As Deputy Director of NRAO, I am privileged to work with some of the best scientists and engineers in the world in the field of radio astronomy, which was started in the United States. Since its beginnings in 1932, radio astronomy has profoundly changed our understanding of the universe in which we live. Quasars, pulsars and the remnant radiation of the Big Bang were discovered with radio telescopes. Radio telescopes today give scientists invaluable information about planets, stars, and galaxies that cannot be provided by other types of telescopes.

NRAO continues to manage and operate a suite of the nation's, and indeed the world's, premier radio astronomy facilities including the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope in West Virginia, and the Very Large Array (VLA), in Socorro, NM, and the Very Large Baseline Array spread across 10 states and territories, and controlled from Socorro. In addition, NRAO is currently engaged in the development of the next generation of astronomical instruments. Together, these

facilities will be at the forefront of 21st Century astrophysics, and will facilitate cutting-edge research that will change our understanding of the heavens.

The first of these new facilities is the Atacama Large Millimeter Array, or ALMA, which will consist of at least 50 12-meter-diameter dish antennas and is an international project being developed by the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan, and Chile. ALMA will provide astronomers a new window on celestial origins, probe the first stars and galaxies, and directly image the formation of planets

The second project, the Expanded VLA (or EVLA), is a program designed to improve the scientific capabilities of the VLA tenfold by replacing equipment with modern technologies in the existing 27-antenna array. The current VLA is the most powerful, flexible and widely-used radio telescope in the world. The EVLA will bring unmatched power and versatility to the study of objects at radio wavelengths, from comets to distant galaxies.

All of these facilities give scientists an unprecedented look at the structure of the early universe and new insights on the formation of death of stars and planets, among many other contributions. And equally important, they stimulate a fascination in school children that will lead them to the technical studies required for the new economy. For instance, in West Virginia, a unique collaboration between the Green Bank Observatory and the West Virginia University allows school children in the state to participate first hand in forefront scientific research.

Through these types of programs, NRAO aims to maintain its leadership and recruit the best and brightest, while promoting diversity in the field. Radio astronomy plays a valuable role in technical workforce development overall as well by stimulating interest in science and engineering in elementary and high school students and developing cutting edge research skills in physics, electronics, structural engineering, and mechanical engineering which can be used in many professions.

NRAO also continues to strive to meet the expectations of the community and the NSF, including high-level management and scientific performance, sophisticated scientific data-analysis packages for the user community, improved observing support systems and data archiving, and education and public outreach.

As a result of the increasing demands of management, science operations, and maintenance for several world-class radio astronomy facilities operated by NRAO, it is essential that NSF overall, and the astronomy program in particular, grow to sustain U.S. leadership in radio astronomy.

With this in mind, I want to express my sincere hope that our nation continues to sustain the healthy development of our nation's basic research program, and that this Subcommittee continues its support and leadership on behalf of science, through increased funding for the NSF and NSF Astronomy.

I thank you for allowing me to speak with you this morning and look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Doctor, for your testimony.

Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. [No response.]

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Next the Committee would like to welcome William Chandler, who will testify on behalf of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NOAA

WITNESS

WILLIAM CHANDLER, MARINE CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE

Mr. CHANDLER. Good morning, Mr. Chairman——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Good morning.

Mr. CHANDLER [continuing]. And Mr. Frelinghuysen. It is a pleasure to be here today and thank you for the opportunity to testify again on NOAA's budget request.

My name is William Chandler and I represent the Marine Conservation Biology Institute. It is a science-driven or conservation organization based in Bellevue, Washington. We have offices in California, Hawaii, and here in Washington, D.C.

As I did last year, I would like to discuss today funding needs for several NOAA programs of vital importance to ocean conservation and to the preservation of marine biodiversity.

As I noted in my written testimony, we are recommending increases for the Hawaiian Monk seal, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, deep sea coral research, and the Marine Protect Areas Program.

My most urgent recommendation to the Subcommittee has to do with the Hawaiian Monk seal which numbers less than 1,200 individuals. This seal resides entirely within U.S. waters and it is the iconic species of the new national monument that President Bush established in Hawaii a couple of years ago.

Now, a recovery plan for the seal was issued in 2007 after I testified before the Committee last year. All members of the recovery team are unanimous saying that concerted actions should and could be taken on several fronts to start this seal back to recovery. But it is the combination of the efforts concurrently that are going to determine the outcome. Incredibly NOAA included no funds in its budget to begin implementing the recovery plan either in 2008 or 2009.

Furthermore, I would like to point out to the Subcommittee that Monk Seal Program base of about $2.1 million in 2008 is insufficient to cover basic needs. For example, the annual field research and survey program they do of the seals up in the northwest Hawaiian Islands has been cut by two-thirds, two-thirds in 2008.

And I would like to introduce for the record, if I might, Mr. Chairman, a letter detailing this cutback from a NOAA official in Hawaii.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. It will be made a part of the record.

[The information follows:]

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Offic
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700
(808) 944-2200 • Fax (808) 973-2941

March 12, 2008

Dr. Lloyd Lowry
Chair
Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team
73-4388 Paiaha Street
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Dear Lloyd:

Thank you for chairing a very productive Hawaiian monk seal recovery team meeting. We both very much appreciate the thought that went into the sessions and look forward to the team's formal recommendations.

We also appreciate your letter of February 18, 2008 and would like to address two points.

First, we certainly agree that monitoring of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands monk seal population is important, and we have endeavored to do so within the funds available. We acknowledge that shifting some activities from NWHI monitoring to other recovery activities and MHI monitoring can only come at a cost to the NWHI monitoring, but we believe that these other activities are important. Ideally, we would like to have even more field presence than we currently achieve, because as good as our monitoring data may be, it remains incomplete. For example, while we know that juvenile survival is low and variable, we have little knowledge of the timing of mortalities and the condition of young animals prior to their deaths. Thus, there is uncertainty regarding the relative importance of various mortality threats and how, where and when we might most effectively intervene. Further, although we currently spend approximately 25% of the year in the field, we may already be missing up to 75% of the potential opportunities to mitigate mortality from entanglement.

The material that Dr. Jason Baker provided in terms of the trade-off between the sampling effort at each island site and increased information about the populations on those sites guided our decisions in terms of reallocating existing effort given the FY08 budget. We believe the evidence is clear that we will still be able to provide a useful set of data on the demographics of the NWHI population. We have provided a summary of that effort and likely impacts in the attachment to this letter. While the impacts of reduced monitoring are real, we believe that an appropriate balance has been made between priorities for this field season, given the resources available.

Full funding to maintain or even expand the current level of effort, along with other emerging recovery initiatives, is desirable and certainly warranted given the imperiled status of the monk seal.

Second, we strongly believe that the evidence increasingly points to the need to extend our activities from simpl monitoring of the monk seal population to more directed recovery activities, whether it be juvenile survival, disease screening, or interventions on MHI beaches. These activities are also critical for addressing the threats to the monk seal as articulated in the recently revised Recovery Plan and they, too, are expensive. We also believe that a balance between NWHI and MHI activities is important.

We very much appreciate your support for our programs and for the additional funding that would be useful in meeting monk seal research and recovery objectives. We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Samuel G. Pooley, Ph.D.
Director
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

William L. Robinson
Regional Administrator
Pacific Islands Regional Office

Attachment (1)

Hawaiian Monk Seal Monitoring Efforts in 2008

The Hawaiian monk seal population assessment program in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) maintains a long-term, high quality demographic database, which allows for detection and diagnosis of threats to the species, provided opportunities to directly and indirectly mitigate mortality, facilitated conservation actions, and made timely response to unusual mortality events possible. Because of its recognized value, assessment research, in particular deployment of extended field camps in each of the six main NWHI subpopulations, has been accorded very high priority in the recently completed Recovery Plan.

However, the Hawaiian monk seal research budget does not have the funds to conduct all the work recommended by the Recovery Plan, and the cost of the field effort has increased due to rising costs of labor, supplies and equipment, and expanded training requirements. We currently spend approximately 3 months each year in the field during the breeding season. When designing our reduced monitoring plan for 2008, we attempted to maintain as much coverage as possible, particularly at FFS and Laysan Island (sites with the two largest subpopulations and a high potential for field crew to directly mitigate mortality) and at locations where coverage was logistically possible by a sole person due to the presence of staff from other agencies.

Planned Strategy for 2008:

Site	Field Effort
FFS	3 months, crew of 4 doing population monitoring and shark mitigation work.
LAY	3 months, crew of 2
LIS	Tagging, resights, mitigation during the camp deployment and pickup cruises. Supplemental work will also be done during Feb/Mar foraging cruise.
PHR	Tagging, resights, mitigation during the camp deployment and pickup cruises. We are considering deploying a short field camp during the pick up cruise (OES-08-07) to be picked up 3 weeks later (OES--08-08)
MDY	3-4 weeks, crew of 1
KUR	3 months, crew of 1

In 2008, field effort as measured by person/days will be reduced by almost two thirds, from almost 1,500 person/days in 2007 to a little over 500 person/days in 2008. Information will be almost completely lacking from two of the major breeding locations, and this lack of field effort at Lisianski Island is especially troubling because the 2007 effort at this location was also cut short due to a medical evacuation. We will make every effort to take an opportunistic look at this population.

The following tables list expected impacts of the reduced field effort in 2008, with symbols indicating level of activities, data quality and quantity relative to a typical field season (= is approximately same, - is reduced, -- is greatly reduced, 0 means none).

Activiti s 2008

	Pup tagging	ID individuals	Beach counts	Debris	Disentangle	Scats
FFS	=	-	-	-	=	=
LAY	=	-	-	0	0	–
LIS	=	--	--	0	0	0
PHR	-	0	0	0	0	0
MDY	=	=	=	-	-	=
KUR	=	-	--	-	-	--

Demographics 2008

	Total Abund.	Index Abund.	Pup Counts	Age/Sex structure	S to wean	S post-wean	Gross Repro	Age-spec Repro
FFS	-	-	=	-	=	=	-	-
LAY	-	-	=	-	-	=	=	-
LIS	0	--	-	0	0	0*	0	0
PHR	0	0	-	0	0	0*	0	n/a
MDY	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	n/a
KUR	-	--	=	-	=	=	=	n/a

Other, 2008

	Cause of death	Detect Problems	Mitigate
FFS	-	=	-
LAY	--	-	0
LIS	0	0	0
PHR	0	0	0
MDY	-	-	-
KUR	-	-	0

Mr. CHANDLER. Now, the prospects for this 13-million-year-old tropical seal are not hopeless, but they will be soon if NOAA does not start executing its own plan. The cost of the recovery effort is estimated to be about seven million annually over the next five years.

[Chart]

Mr. CHANDLER. And by way of comparison, Mr. Chairman, referring to the graph I gave you, we have spent $55 million on the Stellar sea lion since 1998 and a lot more before that. But the more critically endangered Hawaiian Monk seal has received just about $21 million in that same period of time.

So we are recommending that $2 million be added to the Monk Seal Program base in 2009, but specifically directed to begin the recovery program. And I fear, Mr. Chairman, that if the Subcommittees in Congress do not specify that to NOAA, it is not going to happen, quite frankly.

These funds would go towards seal protection activities in both the monument and the main Hawaiian Islands where we do have a small subpopulation of seals as well.

Moving on to deep sea coral research, we are pleased to see that the National Marine Fishery Service has requested $1.5 million to initiate the congressionally mandated program of research on deep sea corals. We are just now beginning to learn about these ecosystems and how they function and what their value is within the issue.

I know things are tight, Mr. Chairman, but if it is feasible, we would like to see this amount increase somewhat. A thirty day mapping cruise, for example, to locate these corals and to map where they are costs about $2 million and NOAA is prepared and interested in doing some of these mapping cruises off the south Atlantic coast, as I understand.

NOAA also needs to train its observers, its fishery observers so that they can identify the corals that are being brought up in fishing nets, you know, how many, what poundage, where they are located, so that they can use that information to identify coral areas that need protection.

Last year, the Subcommittee increased funding substantially for the marine sanctuary system and the monument in Hawaii and we thank you very much for that. Unfortunately, as you know and was discussed earlier, the enacted amount came out to be much less than what you all recommended.

This year, NOAA has requested about $50 million for the program. We continue to believe that the program overall needs about $80 million. That is a large increase, but it is needed to keep up with a very large remote area in the Hawaiian Islands in terms of management purposes and the rest of the 13 sanctuaries in our national marine sanctuary system.

I would also point out that a couple of days ago, you also in the House voted to expand one of our sanctuaries off of California by a thousand square miles. So the needs of the program are increasing and, you know, dollar for dollar, this program, or dollar for acre, this program gets a lot less money than any other conservation system in the United States.

Finally, I will point out again that scientists tell us that we need to create a lot more marine protected areas in the ocean if we are going to have a hope of stopping ocean degradation and returning some of the biodiversity to healthy levels that are now degraded.

And we have an Executive Order 13158 that established the MPA Program to do that. Unfortunately, funding has gone from a peak of $5 million for that effort down to 15 million in 2007 and 2008. That means that this program has lost 70 percent of its staff in the Marine Science Center in California that is supposed to be implementing the program. And we would recommend another $2.9 million be added back for that program in 2009.

That concludes my testimony, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to answer any questions and provide the Subcommittee with any additional information.

I have found that I have to become quite an expert on what is going on with the Hawaiian Monk seal and I do know a lot about it and what it needs to recover.

[Written testimony of William Chandler, Vice President, Marine Conservation Biology Institute.]

William Chandler, Vice *President*

www.mcbi.org

March 28, 2009

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Room H-310
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI), I wish to thank the members of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for the opportunity to submit written testimony on FY 2009 appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). MCBI supports funding increases for several important NOAA conservation programs and activities as follows: $2 million for Hawaiian monk seal recovery; $5.5 million for the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program; $23 million for the National Marine Sanctuaries Program; and $2.9 million for the Marine Protected Areas Program.

MCBI is a national, nonprofit environmental organization whose mission is to advance the science of marine conservation biology and secure protection for ocean ecosystems. Our headquarters are in Bellevue, Washington; we also have offices in Hawaii, California and Washington DC. MCBI is a member of the Friends of NOAA Coalition and supports the Coalition's recommendation for funding NOAA at $4.1 billion in FY 2009. Our justifications of increases for critical conservation programs and activities are as follows:

The Hawaiian monk seal is one of the most critically endangered marine mammals in the world, and is the only U.S. marine mammal species whose entire range lies within U.S jurisdiction. Over the last 20 years, the Hawaiian monk seal population has declined to approximately 1,200 individuals. Most Hawaiian monk seals reside in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, but there is a small important sub-population in the Main Hawaiian Islands.

The Hawaiian monk seal is headed toward extinction unless the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and its partner agencies aggressively budget for, and implement the recommendations of the 2007 recovery plan, which seeks to protect and enhance the overall number of female seals reaching breeding age. This is not an impossible goal, but it will require

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a variety of concurrent actions and interventions over the next 5 years at a projected annual cost of approximately $7 million. Lest this amount seem excessive, it should be noted that the Steller seal lion, whose Western population is 45,000, received over $55 million in conservation assistance since 1998; during this same period the more critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal received approximately $20.6 million.

For FY2009, NOAA requests $855,000 for the monk seal line item. In addition, discretionary funding usually gets allocated from other Protected Resources line items. In FY 2008, for example, total funding for the seal base program is approximately $2.1 million. Even at this funding level, research and protection interventions in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands have been cut back by two-thirds for the summer field season. Furthermore, there are no funds requested in FY 2009 for managing seals in the Main Hawaiian Islands where human interactions are a significant threat to recovery.

To recover the monk seal, the recovery plan must be implemented aggressively on a sustained basis. I urge the subcommittee to augment seal funding as follows:

For FY 2009, MCBI recommends an additional $2 million above the President's budget request be added to the **monk seal line item** specifically for recovery plan implementation. $1 million is needed for the Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center's ongoing field efforts to enhance pup and juvenile survival principally in Papahānaumokuākea.

- Another $1 million is needed for coordinating the seal recovery program and crisis intervention actions in the Main Hawaiian Islands. Of this $1 million, MCBI recommends $150,000 for a Regional Office Coordinator and six field response team leaders at $100,000 each. The remaining $250,000 would go for programs to educate the public on appropriate behavior toward seals, prevent seal disease, and capture and rehabilitate entangled, abandoned, sick or wounded seals.

The Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program is an exciting addition to the budget this year. With the recent discovery of extensive deep sea coral ecosystems within US waters--ecosystems every bit as diverse as many tropical coral reef systems--scientists are now challenged to understand these ecosystems to the fullest. Unfortunately, many deep sea coral areas are highly susceptible to destructive fishing practices, especially bottom trawling. Under the newly reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act of 2006, NOAA was directed to create a new Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program under the direction of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

MCBI is pleased to see start-up funding of $1.5 million for the program in the FY2009 NOAA request. However, we would like to point out that due to the expensive technology and research vessel time required to study and map deep sea corals, an additional $5.5 million could be used to fund known research needs:

Currently, an area of the southeastern US shelf edge and slope (~23,000 square miles) is a top priority for detailed mapping and scientific study. With adequate funding, extensive mapping of this southeastern shelf could be accomplished with three, 30-day scientific cruises at a cost of approximately $2 million per cruise.

- Another top priority for the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program is the development of observer by-catch workshops. These workshops will train fisheries observers to identify corals brought up by commercial fishers and assess the continued impacts fishing is having on seafloor corals. $1 million would fund at least three workshops in the regions where they are most needed.

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate and manage areas of the marine environment for resource protection and multiple use. Currently, The National Marine Sanctuary Office is responsible for managing the nation's 13 marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). Collectively, these units cover more area than the entire National Park System.

The President has requested $49.8 million in FY 2009 for the Sanctuary Program base. This includes $44.4 million for Operations, Research and Facilities and 5.4 million for Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction. This is a decrease of $6.5 million from the $56.3 million enacted in FY2008.

Given the pressing needs to better protect sanctuary resources, MCBI recommends a significant increase in funding of $23 million in FY 2009, to bring the overall program budget to $80 million. This would include $60 million for the ORF base and $20 million for acquisition and construction. With the proper funding, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries can better execute its responsibilities as a leader in ocean management and conservation by supporting and managing individual sanctuary sites. Funding will support monitoring and enforcement of sanctuaries, ensure public accessibility through visitor facilities and programs and promote scientific research.

The Marine Protected Areas program is responsible for the implementation of Executive Order 13158, "Marine Protected Areas" (MPAs). MPAs are defined as discrete areas of the ocean that have some degree of formal protection under federal, state, tribal and local laws. MPAs are imperative to maintain biological diversity, protect ocean habitats, and effectively manage fish populations. NOAA is tasked with undertaking a gap analysis to identify which additional types of marine areas should be protected.

Given the ongoing degradation of our ocean resources, research to implement the executive order has moved way too slowly, partly due to insufficient funding. After receiving a start-up budget of $3 million in FY 2001, the MPA program budget reached almost $5 million in FY 2004, and then dropped rather abruptly to $1.5 million in FY 2007 and 2008. During this period of decline, the center lost 70% of its staff (i.e., a loss of 18 full and part-time employees).

MCBI recommends an additional $2.9 million for the MPA Science Center in FY 2009. Without adequate funding, the MPA Center cannot properly carry out the goals of implementing and expanding a national system of MPAs, rendering technical assistance to state-level MPA programs, and maintain its MPA inventory.

In conclusion, MCBI respectfully requests that the subcommittee augment funding for the special ecosystem and species protection programs mentioned above. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely yours,

William Chandler
Vice President for Government Affairs

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN [presiding]. Mr. Chandler, on behalf of Chairman Mollohan, we want to thank you for your testimony and for sharing your knowledge and for your excellent graphics as well.

Mr. CHANDLER. Thank you, sir.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Very, very interesting testimony.

Mr. CHANDLER. Thank you.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you so much.

Mr. Gerald F. Lynch representing the RISS National Policy Group. Thanks very much for being with us. Thanks for your patience. I say that to everybody that is waiting on line. A copy of your remarks will be put in the record and if you could proceed to summarize, that would be great. Thank you for being with us.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NATIONAL POLICY GROUP

WITNESS

GERALD P. LYNCH, REGIONAL INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you very much, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen. I also for the record want to thank Chairman Mollohan for this meeting also.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the Regional Information Sharing System and its request for $52.7 million.

RISS has been an established, mature program for more than 30 years. In the fiscal year 2008 budget request to Congress, it stated that the RISS has emerged as one of the nation's most important law enforcement intelligence sharing networks.

RISS is a federally funded locally managed nationwide program supporting over 8,000 local, state, federal, tribal, law enforcement, and criminal justice agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, Canada, Australia, and England.

RISS also offers many services to the law enforcement criminal justice community. Some of these services include information sharing, analytical support, equipment loans, confidential funds, field staff report, technical support training, research, publication, as well as officer safety.

In many cases, these services to law enforcement and criminal justice agencies would not have been done without access to and support of the RISS Program.

RISS acts as a force multiplier, enhancing the ability of criminal justice agencies to identify, target, and remove criminal conspiracies and activities spanning multi-jurisdictional, multi-state, and sometimes international boundaries.

RISS is also guided by all federal regulations, federal statutes, and federal laws. We follow 28 CFR and RISS has developed their own privacy policy to protect the privacy of the citizens of this country.

For more than a decade, RISS has operated RISS Net which is a secure internet that acts as a gateway for disparate systems to connect while providing users with the ability to quickly query, analyze, and research data.

RISS Net provides the communications backbone and the existing infrastructure for bidirectional sharing of investigative intelligence information, offers secure, sensitive, but unclassified electronic communication, and provides controlled access to a variety of sensitive resources.

In the world of changing technology and with the increased need to provide timely, accurate, and complete information to law enforcement and public safety professionals, the ability to connect systems and to streamline the capacity to house, share, inquire, and disseminate information and intelligence is paramount.

Over 80 major systems are connected or pending connection to the RISS Net system linking thousands of criminal justice agencies. RISS is proud to be part of what we call the system of systems where an inquiring law enforcement criminal justice entity can make an inquiry and not only will it check the RISS System, but it will check 80 other systems out there. And this is increasing as we go along.

RISS has always completed a report that will solidly back the DHS Fusion Center concept and we have also said that any way we can help the fusion centers establish themselves throughout the country, we will be more than willing to do that.

After September 11th, 2001, RISS recognized the need to expand communications to public safety entities and develop the Automated Trusted Information Exchange or RISS ATIX, which is the communication system that provides first responders and infrastructure personnel and other public safety personnel involved in prevention and response efforts with the ability to share terrorism and homeland security information in a secure, real-time environment.

In 2007, RISS expanded its RISS National Gang Program to include not only the criminal database that we have always had but also developed a web site and bulletin board, secure e-mail, and gang-specific resources to our law enforcement community.

RISS is currently developing RISS Safe which is an officer safety event deconfliction system. RISS Safe will store, maintain, monitor information on planned law enforcement events such as raids, controlled buys, and surveillances with the goal of identifying and alerting affected agencies of the potential conflicts and hopefully prevent any blue-on-blue tragedies where officers from different agencies are working in the same vicinity.

RISS partners with numerous criminal justice agencies. For example, we partner with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration in high-intensity drug trafficking areas to create the National Virtual Pointer System, which we call NVPS, which is a subject-based deconfliction program.

RISS also partners with the Project Safe Neighborhoods and the U.S. Attorneys Offices which submit data to RISS intelligence databases for the purpose of reducing gang and gun violence.

RISS is working with the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Legal Program, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on the Counter-Terrorism Collaboration Interoperability Project which provides participating systems with the ability to publish documents and for access by authorized users of all the participating systems.

RISS Net protects information sharing through encryption, internet protocol security standards, and firewalls to prevent unauthorized access. This type of internet-based information sharing equates to lower infrastructure costs and greater availability to the users.

In 2006, RISS embarked upon RISS Net 2000 initiative to streamline RISS users' access to RISS Net by building a RISS Net portal, SSL Authentication Technology and Trusted Credential Project.

In addition, RISS is one of three systems promoted by the Department of Justice's Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program strategy and is the only nonfederal entity participating in the LEISP process.

RISS is a comprehensive and universal program——

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Lynch, you are doing well. You are moving pretty rapidly. I think the best endorsement for RISS is the fact that so many law enforcement agencies, sheriffs, FOP members, PBA members, and prosecutors support the fantastic work you are doing. I may have to cut you short because I have to go vote.

Mr. LYNCH. That is okay.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Now I yield to the Chairman. Thank you.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN [presiding]. Welcome.

Mr. LYNCH. I repeat everything I have already said. And one of the things is RISS is a comprehensive and universal program. In addition to offering secure communications and information sharing, RISS delivers more than 20,000 analytical products and trains more than 68,000 officers a year. We have field staff conduct 27 site visits of the local and state agencies throughout the nation and we annually train, support, and help member agencies.

Your continued support to meet the needs of the law enforcement and public safety entities is important. We thank you for the opportunity to provide you this testimony. The support that you have given us continuously over the years has been greatly appreciated and we just ask that you continue that support.

[Written testimony of Gerard P. Lynch, Chief Executive Officer, the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) Program.]

Testimony Submitted by

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program for Fiscal Year 2009

Before the

Subcommittee on Science, the U.S. Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce
and Related Agencies
of the Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Submitted by

Gerard P. Lynch, Esq., Chief Executive Officer

On Behalf of

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program

Congressional Testimony FY2009

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program respectfully requests that Congress appropriate $52.7 million for FY2009 to continue RISS's support in combating violent crime, criminal gangs, terrorist activity, illegal drug trafficking, organized criminal activity, human trafficking, identity theft, and other regional criminal priorities and promoting officer safety.

RISS has been at the forefront in paving the way so that law enforcement, public safety, and private sector partners can share information and receive critical investigative and technical assistance. The FY2008 budget request to Congress stated that RISS has emerged as **one of the nation's most important law enforcement intelligence sharing networks** and continues to support efforts to expand and improve information sharing.

RISS, which dates back to the 1970s, not only offers secure communications, access to intelligence databases, and investigative resources to law enforcement and public/private partners but also provides services to enhance and improve the ability to detect crime, apprehend offenders, and successfully prosecute individuals. These services include information sharing, analytical support, equipment loans, confidential funds, field staff support, technical support, training, research, publications, and officer safety. **In many cases, these are services that criminal justice agencies would not have access to without the support of RISS.**

RISS is a federally funded, nationwide program supporting local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement and prosecution efforts with membership in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, Australia, Canada, and England. RISS operates on a national basis but provides support regionally through its six intelligence centers, which support and serve the unique needs of their regions. The six RISS centers and the areas that they serve are:

- **Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLEN):** *Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, as well as Australia, Canada, and England.*
- **Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC):** *Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, as well as Canada.*
- **New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN):** *Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as Canada.*
- **Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC):** *Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.*
- **Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN):** *Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as Canada.*
- **Western States Information Network (WSIN):** *Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington, as well as Canada and Guam.*

RISS acts as a force multiplier, enhancing the ability of criminal justice agencies to identify, target, and remove criminal conspiracies and activities spanning multijurisdictional, multistate and, sometimes, international boundaries. RISS facilitates the seamless exchange of information among agencies pertaining to known suspected criminals or criminal activity and

enhances the coordination and communication among agencies that are in pursuit of criminal conspiracies determined to be interjurisdictional in nature.

There is an increasing communications sophistication by criminal networks and a rising presence of organized and mobile narcotics crime as well as a resurgence of gang activity occurring across the nation. Interagency cooperation in sharing information has proven to be the best method to combat this increasing criminal activity. The RISS centers fill law enforcement's need for rapid, but controlled, sharing of information and intelligence through their unique structure, versatility, flexibility, and diverse services. Congress funded the RISS Program to address this need, as evidenced by its authorization in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers RISS and has established guidelines for the delivery of RISS services. RISS is subject to oversight, monitoring, and auditing by the U.S. Congress; the U.S. Government Accountability Office; the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), BJA; and local and state governmental units. BJA also monitors RISS for 28 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 23 compliance. The 28 CFR Part 23 regulation emphasizes adherence to individual constitutional and privacy rights and places stricter controls on the RISS intelligence databases than those placed on most local, state, or federal agencies. Evaluation of RISS continues to be positive. RISS supports and has fully operated in compliance with 28 CFR Part 23 since its inception. RISS firmly recognizes the need to ensure that individuals' constitutional rights, civil liberties, civil rights, and privacy interests are protected throughout the intelligence process. In this regard, RISS officials adopted a Privacy Policy to further strengthen their commitment and support of 28 CFR Part 23 and protection of individual privacy rights.

In 1997, well before the attacks of September 11, 2001, RISS began building a national system, a secure intranet known as RISSNET. Through funding from Congress, RISS was able to develop RISSNET, thereby creating a gateway for disparate systems to connect while providing users with the ability to quickly query, analyze, and research data. **Today, RISSNET is used as the system of choice for numerous law enforcement entities.** RISSNET links thousands of law enforcement, criminal justice, and public safety agencies and uses state-of-the-art technology, such as DOJ's Global Justice Extensible Markup Language (XML) Data Model, to connect existing systems and networks. RISSNET provides the communications backbone and infrastructure for bidirectional sharing of investigative and intelligence information, offers secure sensitive but unclassified electronic communications, and provides controlled access to a variety of sensitive information resources. Currently over 8,000 criminal justice agencies are members of RISS. Over 80,000 access officers, representing hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the globe, are able to access RISSNET resources.

More than 80 agency systems are connected or pending connection to RISSNET. Examples include the El Paso Intelligence Center; the National White Collar Crime Center; Nlets—The International Justice and Public Safety Network; DOJ Criminal Division; information/intelligence networks from California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming; and numerous other local, state, and federal systems. In addition, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys has connected staff to RISSNET, and RISS continues to expand its partnership with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). Currently, 18 HIDTAs are electronically connected to RISSNET.

In this world of changing technology and with the increased need to provide timely, accurate, and complete information to law enforcement and public safety professionals, the ability to connect systems and streamline the capacity to house, share, inquire, and disseminate

information and intelligence is paramount. Through RISSNET, RISS provides valuable collaboration with others who have experienced similar crime problems or who are investigating the same or similar crimes. In addition, RISS offers resources and tools to additional users beyond the typical bounds of the law enforcement realm, which vastly enhances the information exchange. After 9/11, RISS recognized the need to expand communications to public safety entities and developed the Automated Trusted Information Exchange (ATIX). ATIX is a communications system that provides first responders, critical infrastructure personnel, and other public safety personnel involved in prevention and response efforts with the ability to share terrorism and homeland security information in a secure, real-time environment. In 2007, ATIX was expanded to serve as a communications resource for both state sex offender registries and fusion centers.

In 2007, RISS expanded its RISS National Gang Program, known collectively as RISSGang, to include a criminal intelligence database, a Web site, a bulletin board, secure e-mail, and gang-specific resources. The RISSGang database provides law enforcement agencies with access to gang suspects, organizations, weapons, locations, and vehicles, as well as visual imagery of gang members, gang symbols, and gang graffiti. The Web site contains valuable information, research, tools, and other resources, including an anonymizing filter that is automatically applied when a user clicks on one of the links to published criminal gang Web sites. This tool removes the ability of the target Web sites to identify officers.

RISS is currently in the process of developing RISSafe, an officer safety event deconfliction system. RISSafe will store, maintain, and monitor information on planned law enforcement events—such as raids, controlled buys, and surveillances—with the goal of identifying and alerting affected agencies of potential conflicts. Over 18,000 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty; RISSafe will make a significant contribution towards enhancing officer safety and supporting criminal investigations.

RISS partners with a number of criminal justice organizations and fosters a collaborative information sharing environment. RISS partnered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and HIDTAs to create the National Virtual Pointer System (NVPS). NVPS is an automated system that connects existing deconfliction pointer databases into one virtual pointer system. RISS also partnered with Project Safe Neighborhoods, which submits data to the RISS intelligence databases for the purpose of reducing gun violence. The Operation Respond Institute electronically connected its Operation Respond Emergency Information System, which provides critical information on railroads and other transportation industries, to RISSNET.

RISS is working with DOJ and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on the Counterterrorism Collaboration Interoperability Project (CCIP), which provides participating systems with the ability to publish documents for access by authorized users of other participating systems via Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds. This project has been recognized as a model for agencies to share information, as required by Presidential Executive Order 13388, *Strengthening the Sharing of Terrorism Information to Protect Americans*.

Throughout 2007, RISS continued to support a number of initiatives to enhance information sharing, including the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website and the National Criminal Intelligence Resource Center. RISS represents the core of collaboration and constantly seeks out and fosters new and existing partnerships in order to maximize the nation's information sharing environment.

RISS's partnerships and efforts have resulted in an unprecedented level of information and intelligence sharing. As a result, it is critical to ensure that the information is secure and available only to authorized users. RISSNET protects information through encryption, Internet protocol security standards, and firewalls to prevent unauthorized access. In addition, the criminal intelligence information accessed through RISSNET is controlled by its local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement member agency owners. RISS continues to evolve and expand, utilizing the latest technology to meet the needs of law enforcement member agencies.

In 2006, RISS embarked on the RISSNET 2007 initiative to streamline RISS users' access to RISSNET resources. This project enhances the security and accessibility of RISSNET and allows for compatibility and interoperability of existing systems' infrastructures to leverage and expand information and intelligence sharing systems. RISSNET 2007 consists of three main components—the RISSNET Portal, Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) authentication technology, and the Trusted Credential Project (TCP). The RISSNET Portal was launched in 2007 and provides authenticated users with one entry point for RISSNET, providing access to all RISSNET resources from one location. In addition, the Portal creates additional security layers that protect RISSNET resources and provides ease of access by RISS members to permitted resources. SSL is a widely implemented Internet browser-based technology used to transmit encrypted data between a Web server and a Web browser by creating a secure virtual connection between the browser and the server. SSL technology is supported by all major Internet browsers and is a maturely developed standard for the secure transmission of sensitive information. Finally, TCP seeks to identify industry-leading technologies for user authentication and access control and will develop, test, and demonstrate methods to recognize and accept credentials in addition to those currently used on RISSNET. These three projects work in unison and represent the natural next steps for enhancing RISS technology and service to its members.

The RISSNET architecture is referenced and recommended in the *General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan* (GCIP) and is endorsed by the *National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan* (NCISP). RISS has embraced and integrated the recommendations contained in the NCISP and continues to foster similar integration among its member agencies. In addition, RISS has embraced the *Fusion Center Guidelines* developed by DOJ and DHS and continues to build relationships with fusion centers. RISS developed a Fusion Center Partnership Strategy that integrates RISS services and tools into fusion center operations and has signed a Resolution in support of fusion centers. RISS has provided analysts to fusion centers, participated on fusion center advisory boards, provided RISSNET connectivity to fusion centers, and continues to work with fusion center leadership to tailor RISS services to their needs.

RISS is one of three systems promoted by DOJ's Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program (LEISP) Strategy and is the only nonfederal entity participating in the LEISP process. RISS has also begun exploring opportunities to meet the needs of the recently published *National Information Sharing Strategy.*

RISS's services and tools directly benefit detectives and investigative units within local, state, regional, federal, and tribal criminal justice entities, making RISS a comprehensive and universal program. **RISS delivers more that 20,000 analytical products annually and trains more than 68,000 officers each year. RISS's field staffs conducted over 27,000 on-site visits to member agencies last year to train, support, and help integrate RISS services.** This one-on-one support has resulted in trusted relationships and a network prized among its members. **These services are what make RISS a unique and valued program.**

The success of RISS has been acknowledged and vigorously endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police as well as other national law enforcement groups, such as the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Fraternal Order of Police.

In view of today's increasing demands on local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement budgets, requests for RISS services have risen. RISS's support has had a dramatic impact on the success of numerous investigations. By providing timely and accurate intelligence information, the RISS centers have greatly enhanced law enforcement's ability to more effectively dismantle criminal organizations. The results of these successes can be measured in the number of violent career criminals that are removed from our communities and the reduction of illicit drugs that are available to our young people. During the three-year period of 2005–2007, **RISS generated a return by member agencies resulting in 15,000 arrests, narcotics seizures valued over $113 million, and seizures of over $51 million in currency and/or recovered or seized property.**

It is respectfully requested that Congress appropriate $52.7 million for FY2009 to continue RISS's efforts in combating crime and terrorism. Local and state law enforcement depend on RISS for information sharing, investigative support, and technical assistance and are increasingly competing for decreasing budget resources. It would be counterproductive to require local and state RISS members to self-fund match requirements, as well as to reduce the amount of BJA discretionary funding. Local and state agencies require more, not less, funding to fight the nation's crime problem. RISS cannot make up the decrease in funding that a match would cause, and it has no revenue source of its own. Cutting the RISS appropriation by requiring a match should not be imposed on the program.

Funding is requested to support the increased needs of law enforcement and public safety entities, to maintain RISSNET, and to meet the demand for RISS services and resources. These funds will enable RISS to continue services to law enforcement agencies to identify, target, prosecute, and remove criminal conspirators involved in terrorism and other crimes that span multijurisdictional boundaries. In addition, RISS will utilize increased funds to:

- Deploy RISSafe on a nationwide scale and integrate RISSafe with intelligence systems and other deconfliction systems.
- Expand the existing RISSGang Program by developing and implementing online gang-related training programs and minimum standards for such training programs.
- Develop and implement a gang deconfliction system.
- Coordinate and host a regional/and or national gang conference.
- Expand fusion center partnerships by connecting fusion centers, providing bidirectional sharing, and offering technical on-site assistance.
- Expand RISS ATIX to accommodate the growing number of public and private sector entities requiring secure communications.
- Upgrade and maintain the RISSNET infrastructure. Upgrade hardware, operating systems, and portal framework software for the RISSNET Portal.
- Implement the Trusted Credential Project.

RISS is grateful for this opportunity to provide the committee with this testimony and appreciate the support this committee has continuously provided to the RISS Program. (See Attachment A)

ATTACHMENT A

The Regional Information Sharing Systems

Each RISS center offers basic services to member agencies. Traditional services include information sharing, analysis, investigative support, equipment loans, confidential funds, training, and technical assistance.

- **Information Sharing**—The operation of RISSNET and its various applications enhances information sharing and communications among RISS members by providing various secure databases and investigative tools. Each RISS center develops and provides access to specialized information sharing systems for use by its member agencies.
- **Analysis**—RISS center personnel create analytical products for investigative and prosecutorial use. These products include highly complex and specialized flowcharts, link-analysis charts, crime scene diagrams, telephone toll analysis reports, and financial analysis reports and provide computer forensics analysis. Staff members also provide video and audio enhancement services.
- **Investigative Support**—Each center maintains a staff of intelligence technicians that support member agencies with a variety of investigative assistance. Staff members conduct database searches, utilize all RISS applications, and process batch uploads. Intelligence technicians respond to thousands of requests and questions.
- **Equipment Loans**—Pools of specialized and surveillance equipment are available for loan to member agencies for use in support of multijurisdictional investigations.
- **Confidential Funds**—Member agencies may apply for funds to purchase information, contraband, stolen property, and other items of an evidentiary nature or to provide for other investigative expenses related to multijurisdictional investigations. The availability and use of confidential funds are strictly controlled by federal guidelines, and internal policies and procedures are developed by each center.
- **Training and Publications**—RISS centers sponsor or cosponsor meetings and conferences that build investigative expertise for member agency personnel. Subject areas include anti-terrorism, crime-specific investigative and surveillance techniques, specialized equipment, officer safety, and analytical techniques. In addition, each center researches, develops, and distributes numerous publications, such as bulletins, flyers, and criminal intelligence publications.
- **Technical Assistance**—RISS field service coordinators provide technical assistance to member agencies to facilitate delivery of RISS services. This personal interaction with member agencies significantly improves information sharing and ensures that member agencies are provided with quality and timely service.

Centers also offer additional services based on regional and member agency needs.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you very much for your testimony, Mr. Lynch.

Mr. LYNCH. You are welcome.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Next the Committee would like to welcome Mr. C. Robertson McClung, who will be testifying on behalf of the American Society of Plant Biologists.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NSF

WITNESS

C. ROBERTSON McCLUNG, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS

Mr. MCCLUNG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to present this testimony on behalf of the American Society of Plant Biologists or ASPB. The society is a nonprofit society of 5,000 plant scientists that was founded in 1924.

My name is Rob McClung. I am a Biology Professor and Associate Dean of the Sciences at Darmouth College and also President of ASPB.

The ASPB would like to urge the Subcommittee's support for the fiscal year 2009 budget request of the National Science Foundation of 6.85 billion, including 5.59 billion for research and related activities, and 790 million for education and human resources.

In addition, ASPB recommends a 16 percent increase for the NSF Director for Biological Sciences, which is the average of increases for all directorates in the fiscal year 2009 request.

ASPB joined with 17 other science societies in a letter to you, the Chairman, and the Ranking Member expressing appreciation for your leadership in supporting the NSF and comparable increases for all science disciplines.

Our concern is that the fiscal year 2009 budget request tries to distinguish among the disciplines in its proposed increase for the research directorates and specifically suggests lower increases for the biological sciences than for several other science disciplines.

The "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008" indicates that, and I quote, "Committees also believe the Foundation should maintain comparable growth in fiscal year 2008 to the extent possible for the biological sciences and social behavior and economic sciences directorates. Each of the science disciplines is valuable in maintaining U.S. competitiveness."

This reflects language in the House report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and also Mr. Ranking, for your leadership in this provision.

Investment in basic research sponsored by the NSF contributes to U.S. leadership in science and technology which is needed for U.S. based development of new technologies required in the highly competitive global market.

Support for NSF is an investment in the knowledge base of our nation. Educating and training of citizens to be world leading scientists at all levels and the existence of a highly educated workforce have been success for the U.S. science community and its related industries.

However, grant approval rates for the Directorate of Biological Sciences are below the average for all directorates. The current high rate of rejection is even highly rated by peer review biology proposals discourages some talented young students from pursuing a career in science. We simply cannot afford this loss of talent.

The NSF is the major source of support for fundamental nonmedical biology research. It is important to distinguish the NIH from the NSF and other nonmedical biological research agencies. No one of these is inherently superior, but each has a distinct mission and supports distinct research.

One example to illustrate the importance of nonmedical biology research is research into biofuels to assure a reliable and affordable energy supply that does not contribute to global warming through greenhouse gas emissions. Economically viable production of fuels from plant biomass will require increases in plant productivity and advances in plant biomass for fuel conversion.

A recent report from the National Academies found that basic plant geno research as to why diversity of agricultural and environmental purposes.

For example, by increasing knowledge of how plants cope with extreme environmental stresses, plant genomics research can help scientists to more precisely breed or engineer plants that can thrive as climates change.

Let us consider one example, water, which should be considered a critical limiting resource. Wars have been fought and will be fought both figuratively and literally over water. Improved water use efficiency in agriculture is critical and the basic research supported by the NSF provides the essential knowledge base to improve water use efficiency in that regard.

A key to maintaining the health and security of the United States and its citizens is continuing to provide secure food supplies. Plants are the first step of every food chain. And NSF sponsored research on plants plays an essential role in maintaining a secure supply of domestically produced food, fiber, and bioenergy.

Thank you very much again for this opportunity to present our testimony before the Subcommittee. I would be glad to try and answer any questions.

[Written testimony of C. Robertson McClung, President, American Society of Plant Biologists.]

Statement of the American Society of Plant Biologists
Before the
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
April 2, 2008

Relating to Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations for the
National Science Foundation
Presented by
C. Robertson McClung
Associate Dean of the Sciences, Dartmouth College
President, American Society of Plant Biologists

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to present this testimony on behalf of the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB). Founded in 1924, ASPB is a non-profit society of 5,000 plant scientists. My name is Rob McClung. I am Associate Dean of the Sciences at Dartmouth College and President of ASPB. ASPB urges Subcommittee support for the Fiscal Year 2009 budget request of the National Science Foundation (NSF) of $6.85 billion, including $5.59 billion for NSF Research and Related Activities and $790 million for NSF Education and Human Resources. ASPB urges a 16-percent increase for the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences, which is the average of increases for all directorates in the FY 2009 request.

ASPB joined with 17 other science societies in a March 17 letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member expressing appreciation for your leadership in supporting NSF and comparable increases for all science disciplines. As noted in the letter, we are concerned that the NSF FY 2009 budget request again tries to distinguish among the disciplines in its proposed increases for the research directorates.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 indicates that the "Committees also believe the Foundation should maintain comparable growth in fiscal year 2008, to the extent possible for the biological sciences and social, behavioral, and economic sciences directorates. Each of the science disciplines is valuable in maintaining U.S. competitiveness. " This reflects language in the House Report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member for your leadership on this provision.

Your position is supported by the America COMPETES Act, which treats all disciplines as priorities. In addition, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" said there should not be a disinvestment in such important fields as the life sciences and social sciences.

We join with 17 other science societies in asking that the Subcommittee include report language in the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations report that asks NSF to ensure that the

biological sciences, geosciences and social, behavioral and economic sciences directorates receive increases in Fiscal Year 2009 that are comparable to the other directorates.

It is only through advances in all science disciplines that the nation will take advantage of the full range of innovation the science community has to offer.

Investment in world leading basic research sponsored by NSF contributes to U.S. leadership in the world in science and technology. U.S. leadership in a wide range of science disciplines is needed for U.S.-based development of new technologies that will help U.S. industries and workers compete and survive in the highly competitive global market.

Support for NSF is an investment in the knowledge base of our nation. Existence of a highly educated workforce is a major consideration for businesses in determining what part of the world they will start or expand their operations. Despite the attractions of lower costs for wages, land, buildings and related costs to companies considering moving jobs offshore, it is the highly skilled workforce in the U.S. that plays a major role in contributing to job starts and business expansions here at home.

The students, post doctoral students, assistant professors and professors supported at universities across the nation by NSF research and education grants make up a valuable talent pool highly prized by business and industry. In addition to the U.S., other nations are aware of the contributions the science community can make to its economy.

Educating and training its citizens to be world leading scientists and providing a reasonable opportunity for success in a science academic career have been keys to success for the U.S. science community and its related industries. Support provided by NSF for research proposals selected based on the highest scientific merit as determined through peer review is essential to development of the nation's scientific talent base. We're concerned that the high rate of rejection of even the highly rated biology proposals by NSF, will discourage some talented young students from pursuing a career in science.

Grant approval rates at 21 percent for the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences are below the average of 23 percent for all directorates in NSF Research and Related Activities. We appreciate the 10.3 percent increase in the budget request for the Directorate for Biological Sciences. We request that the Subcommittee increase funding for the Directorate for Biological Sciences to the 16-percent average increase for Research and Related Activities in the budget request. This would make possible the granting of more awards for a greater number of high quality research proposals.

The NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences is the major source of support for fundamental non-medical biology research conducted at universities across the nation. Increased support for non-medical biology research could strengthen the nation's world standing and competitive strength in this important area of research. This would in turn strengthen U.S.-based industries dependent upon basic biological research, including biotechnology, bioenergy, biosafety, biodefense and agriculture.

In concert with maintaining preeminence in science and technology, one of the keys to maintaining world leadership for the U.S. will be to assure a reliable and affordable energy supply for industry and consumers. Basic plant research supported by the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences is providing knowledge that is contributing to bioenergy research capabilities of the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Agriculture. For example the Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP) and 2010 Project are producing a treasure trove of knowledge of plant gene structure and functions.

As projected in a report prepared by DOE and USDA in April 2005, advances in plant and related research will enable the U.S. to produce more than 1.3 billion tons of biomass "enough to produce biofuels to meet more than one-third of the current demand for transportation fuels." The report is titled "Biomass as Feedstock for a Bioenergy and Bioproducts Industry: The Technical Feasibility of a Billion-Ton Annual Supply." The report can be found at:
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/pdfs/final_billionton_vision_report2.pdf

A letter to the editor I wrote on "The next generation of biofuels" that was published in The Washington Times March 6, 2008 and is appended to my statement commends the Congress and President for initiating needed investments in new generation biofuels. We encourage additional investment in all phases of plant research. This will hasten the day when biofuels make up 33 percent instead of three percent of the transportation fuels used in the United States.

Plant genome research has helped propel plant science into a new modern era with far more capabilities in biology, bioinformatics, computational biology, modeling systems, systems biology and other areas. Findings in future years through the Plant Genome Research Program and 2010 Project will further enhance research capabilities with plants. As the primary source for food, fiber and feed and a promising clean alternative energy source, increased knowledge of plant structure and function is essential to meeting life-sustaining human needs.

A recent report of the National Academies found many important contributions from the NSF-sponsored National Plant Genome Initiative. The report found that basic plant genome research serves a wide diversity of agricultural and environmental purposes, as well as contributing to basic scientific discovery. For example, by increasing knowledge of how plants cope with extreme environmental stresses, plant genomics research can help scientists more precisely breed or engineer plants that can thrive as climates change. This knowledge is particularly important with respect to how water is used to grow crops. Economically viable production of fuels from plant biomass, in quantities that could contribute to a reversal of the world's dependence on fossil fuels, will require increases in plant productivity and advances in plant biomass-to-fuel conversion.

A key to maintaining the health and security of the U.S. and its citizens is to continue to provide secure food supplies. NSF support for basic plant research contributes to the local economies nationwide, including rural areas, while helping to secure the food supply of all

Americans. As the first step of every food chain, plants and research on plants plays an essential role in meeting the nutritional needs of people here and abroad.

The NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences sponsors examination of basic research questions on plants and other organisms that will lead to technologies to continue a secure supply of domestically produced food and bioenergy.

Thank you again for this opportunity to present our testimony before the Subcommittee.

The Washington Times
Letters to the Editor
March 6, 2008

The next generation of biofuels

Oil closed at $100 a barrel Feb. 19 for the first time. The Washington Times reported on Feb. 20 ("Oil tops $100 on refinery, OPEC," Business) that fears that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries may cut production contributed to the price increase.

Some analysts see this $100 mark as just a stop on the way to $200-per-barrel oil, possibly by the end of this decade. The reason cited is similar to newspaper reports on the bump to $100 per barrel -- OPEC's control of supply.

In addition to the economic and political challenges imposed by our reliance on foreign oil, we also need to be concerned that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the use of fossil fuel contribute significantly to global warming, evident from observed increases in global air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and a rising global average sea level. Is there a large-volume alternative to the use of increasingly costly oil with its high GHG emissions? There will be.

We are at the early stages of research on the next generation of biofuels using plant cellulose. Plant stems, stalks and leaves will become low-cost feedstocks for biofuels. A 2005 report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy projects that there will be enough biomass (cellulose) to meet more than one-third of the current U.S. demand in transportation fuels.

At the same time, next-generation biofuels will greatly lower emissions of stored carbon compared to gasoline. Biofuels will be better for Americans' pocketbooks and the environment.

The president and Congress are to be commended for initiating needed investments in new-generation biofuels research. Additional investment is needed in all phases of plant research. This will help hasten the day when biofuels make up 33 percent instead of 3 percent of the transportation fuels used in the United States.

C. ROBERTSON MCCLUNG, President, American Society of Plant Biologists

Mr. MOLLOHAN. You expressed concern about the high rates of rejection?

Mr. MCCLUNG. Yes.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And that is rates. What do you think should be the proclamation by that because that is rates? Because we have a lot more applications pending, that reduces the rate number.

Mr. MCCLUNG. It is a very good question. And it is one that is very difficult to answer. And the numbers one gets back from the agencies include not only the individual investigator panel of words, but a whole panoply of other things that tend to be accepted at a higher rate. And so it inflates the number.

Right now the——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Inflates what number?

Mr. MCCLUNG. The success rates.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Say more slowly what you said.

Mr. MCCLUNG. Sure. The numbers that one hears from the agency includes not only the basic panels with individual investigator driven proposals, but a number of other proposals, supplements and so on and so forth that tends to yield a number that is a little higher than one such as me who is writing a grant to the NSF would actually experience. We are talking single digits to very low teens right now.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. The higher rejection rate or a higher approval?

Mr. MCCLUNG. A higher approval rate because some of these other things, a grant for a smaller amount of support for a scientific conference, they have very high success rates. When you average them all together, it brings up the overall number from that which is experienced by the average scientist.

And our students see this and it is quite discouraging to them. They would just as soon find other lines of work in some cases. And this is a terrible loss.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Nothing.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you.

Next the Committee would like to welcome Patrick J. Natale who will be testifying on behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Mr. Natale.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NSF

NIST

NATIONAL DISASTERS

WITNESS

PATRICK J. NATALE, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Mr. NATALE. Good afternoon, and thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee. I am Patrick J. Natale. I am the Executive Director of the American Society of Civil Engineers, ASCE.

ASCE is pleased to offer testimony on the proposed budgets for the National Science Foundation and the National Institute for Standards and Technology for fiscal year 2009.

ASCE was founded in 1852 and is the country's oldest national civil engineering organization representing more than 140,000 civil engineers in private practice, government, industry, and academia dedicated to the advancement of science and the profession of civil engineering. And we are the stewards of America's infrastructure.

ASCE is a 501C3 nonprofit educational professional society. I would refer the members of the Subcommittee to my written testimony which covers a number of areas, including the importance on U.S. competitiveness of research and educational programs from NSF and equally important the NIST core laboratory programs and activities for standards.

The Subcommittee has no doubt heard numerous testimony today and before about science, technology, engineering, academic issues, and from industry groups supporting the vital programs. ASCE wishes to add our support to the urging of the full funding for NSF and NIST core programs.

But I would like to take my time today to focus on hazards mitigation. Within NSF and NIST and other federal agencies, there exists a number of small, but critical programs designed to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

These programs include the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, NEHRP, and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Programs and others. These programs deserve Congress' full attention and funding.

Each year, the United States suffers an estimated $52 billion in property damage, disruption of commerce, and the loss of life due to natural disasters from such issues as hurricanes, tornados, wildfires and earthquakes. A single major event could cause damage between 80 and $200 billion in economic losses in the affected areas. And we could see that by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in August and September of 2005. It underscores the risk that we face each year.

For the past 30 years, the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, NEHRP, has provided the resources and leadership that have led to significant advances in the understanding of the risk earthquakes pose and that we can counter and protect the public against.

Under NEHRP, which includes activities at NIST and NSF together with agencies such as FEMA and the U.S. Geological Survey, there are many gains we have had on the funding in seismic monitoring, mapping, research, testing, codevelopment, mitigation, and emergency preparedness.

A recent study, a report from the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council entitled National Hazard Mitigation Saves, an important independent study to access the future saving from mitigation activities, has concluded money spent on reducing risk from natural hazards is a sound investment. On average, for every dollar spent, there is a four dollar future benefit. And this research will gain additional benefit as we go forward.

The 2004 reauthorization for NEHRP under Public Law 108–360 has given NIST a new responsibility as a lead agency for NEHRP

and has expanded the role in the problem-focused research and development in earthquake engineering.

ASCE is pleased with last year when the Administration for the first time requested specific funding for NEHRP responsibilities at NIST. Both the House and the Senate approved the funding only to see it disappear in the final Omnibus Bill.

ASCE is pleased once again that the Administration has requested $3.3 million for the NEHRP program at NIST and urges Congress to once again support that request.

However, in order for NIST to fully carry its responsibility, ASCE supports the full funding levels contained in the reauthorization in fiscal year 2009 of $14.6 million in NEHRP's responsibilities at NIST.

ASCE also supports the President's request for $4 million for the structural safety in Hurricanes, Fires, and Earthquakes Program at NIST. ASCE further urges that this program be closely coordinated with NEHRP and the Wind Hazards Program. The coordination is vital to its success.

NSF has a major role to play within NEHRP. The NSF has the responsibility to advance the fundamental knowledge of earthquake engineering, earthquake science processes, and societal preparedness and responses to earthquakes.

Additionally, the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation better known as NEES operated by NSF will expand the knowledge through new methods for experimental and confrontational simulation.

The research at NEES will have an impact beyond just earthquake research. It could play a vital role in mitigating the impacts of a hurricane as well as man-made disasters such as terrorist attacks.

ASCE requests that Congress direct the NSF to acknowledge the $64.7 million funding level for NEHRP responsibilities at NSF for the fiscal year 2009 and urge that NSF fulfill that obligation.

We further support the Administration request for $23 million in the operation of the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation at NSF and ask that Congress urge NSF to maximize the potential of NEES through research grants.

Although important programs that are the potential to save lives and property is in the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program created by law in October of 2004, that law was again 108–360, as a result of the 2005 nation's impact in the Gulf area, we saw the major impact that we have. This program has been authorized in 2006. However, there have been no appropriation funds or no specific budget requests.

Finally, ASCE urges full funding of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program and for fiscal year 2009, the law authorizes $25 million in spending spread between four agencies. We urge Congress to support the funding levels, specifically the agencies under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

The law has authorized $9.4 million for NSF, $4 million for NIST, and 2.2 for NOAA. These are small numbers compared to some of the other numbers we have heard, but these are vital numbers to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public that you represent and we also represent.

ASCE thanks the Committee for the right to present this testimony to you.

[Written testimony of Patrick J. Natale, P.E. Executive Director, American Society of Civil Engineers.]

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Statement of
Patrick J. Natale, P.E.
Executive Director
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
Before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
on Appropriations for the
National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology
For the Fiscal Year 2009
April 2, 2008

I am Patrick Natale, Executive Director of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). ASCE is pleased to offer this testimony on the proposed budgets for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) for Fiscal Year 2009.

I. The American Society of Civil Engineers

ASCE, founded in 1852, is the country's oldest national civil engineering organization representing more than 140,000 civil engineers in private practice, government, industry and academia dedicated to the advancement of the science and profession of civil engineering. ASCE is a 501(c) (3) non-profit educational and professional society.

II. Hazard Mitigation

Within the NSF and NIST, and other Federal agencies, there exist a number of small but critical programs designed to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. These critical programs such as the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program and others hold the potential to save countless lives and billions of dollars. These programs deserve Congress's full attention and funding.

Each year, the United States suffers an estimated $52 billion in property damage, disruption of commerce, and lost lives due to natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes. A single major event—a big earthquake or hurricane— could cause some $80 billion to $200 billion in economic losses in the affected areas. The tragedy caused by

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in August and September 2005 underscores the growing risk to society from natural disasters.

III. National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP)

For the past 30 years NEHRP has provided the resources and leadership that have led to significant advances in understanding the risk earthquakes pose and the best ways to counter them. Under NEHRP, there has been a constant source of funding for seismic monitoring, mapping, research, testing, code development, mitigation and emergency preparedness. A recent study and report by the Multihazard Mitigation Council entitled "Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: An Independent Study to Assess the Future Savings from Mitigation Activities,", has concluded the money spent on reducing the risk of natural hazards is a sound investment. On average, a dollar spent by FEMA on hazard mitigation provides the nation about $4 in future benefits. The type of research to be conducted under this program has the potential to increase the benefit greatly.

The 2004 reauthorization of NEHRP (P.L. 108-360) has given the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) new responsibility as the lead agency for NEHRP and an expanded role in problem-focused research and development in earthquake engineering. **ASCE is pleased that the Administration has requested $3.3 million for the NEHRP programs at NIST. This money was requested by the President for FY 2008 and approved by both the House and the Senate; however, it was left out of the final FY 2008 omnibus appropriations.**

ASCE would go further and urge that for NIST to fully carry out its responsibilities, the full funding levels contained in the reauthorization for FY 2009 of $14.6 million for NEHRP responsibilities at NIST.

In addition to its leadership role, NIST is now specifically tasked to carry out problem-focused research and development in earthquake engineering aimed at improving building codes and standards for both new and existing construction and advancing seismic practices for structures and lifelines.

ASCE applauds NIST's commitment to NEHRP by making money available without specific authorizations and for moving ahead with its responsibilities as the NEHRP lead agency. Additionally, the NEHRP office at NIST has created the Advisory Committee called for by law and an important step in its efforts at greater integration of the program.

ASCE also supports the President's request for $4 million for the structural safety in hurricanes, fires and earthquakes program at NIST. ASCE further urges that this program be closely coordinated with the NEHRP and Wind Hazards Programs.

The NSF also has a major role to play within NEHRP. The NSF has the responsibility to advance fundamental knowledge in earthquake engineering, earth science processes, and societal preparedness and response to earthquakes. Additionally, the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES), operated by NSF, will expand knowledge through new methods for experimental and computational simulation.

ASCE requests that Congress direct NSF to acknowledge the $64.7 million funding level for NEHRP responsibilities at NSF for FY 2009 and to urge NSF to fulfill that obligation. We further support the Administration's request of $23.02 million for the operation of the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation at NSF and ask that Congress urge NSF to maximize the potential of Network Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) through research grants.

IV. National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program at NIST, NSF and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

In October 2004 the President signed Public Law 108-360 authorizing the creation of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. As recent events on the Nation's Gulf coast have so vividly illustrated, the nation remains highly vulnerable to major windstorms.

This vulnerability was recognized by Congress in 2004 when it created the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. However, while the program has been authorized for FY 2006 through FY 2008, there has been no appropriation of funds or specific budget request.

ASCE urges full funding for the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. For Fiscal Year 2009 the law authorizes $25 million in spending, spread between four federal agencies. The Coalition urges the Congress to support full funding levels. Specifically, for the agencies under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee, the law authorizes:

- **$9.4 million for the National Science Foundation (NSF);**
- **$4 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); and, $2.2 million for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).**

V. U.S. Global Competitiveness

ASCE is please that the President has once again requested funding for the American Competitive Initiative (ACI) with its focus on research and development. ASCE is encouraged by and supports ACI and urges Congress and the Administration to carry through and fund these programs.

ASCE believes that technological innovation has been the engine that drove the nation's economy expansion of the last fifty years. ASCE firmly believes that by maintaining strong continuing and steadily increasing support for the research and education we will continue to enjoy the rewards of economic expansion. If we do not continue to invest in research and technology, we will loose our position in an ever more integrated and competitive world. The basic research funded by NSF, in engineering and all other areas of science, is the foundation of that investment in the future. Global competition increasingly requires the United States to make the necessary investments in science and engineering research and education.

VI. National Institute of Standards and Technology

ASCE supports the President's requested budget for NIST of $638 million for FY 2009 and would strongly urge Congress to appropriate the request fully as presented. ASCE is concerned that money requested for NIST's core laboratory and standards activities may be moved to fund other programs, as has happened in the past.

Scientific & Technical Research & Services (STRS) - These are NIST's core programs that provide the measurements and standards on which the nation's industry stands and grows. The NIST laboratories provide industry and the science and engineering community with the measurement capabilities, standards, evaluated reference data, and test methods that provide a common language needed at every stage of technical activity. U.S. scientists rely on NIST's evaluated data services and measurement expertise for a host of basic and applied research activities. **ASCE supports the Administration's request of $535 million to fund the core programs at NIST. If fully appropriated, the funding would permit NIST to carryout its core responsibilities and greatly enhance U.S. competitiveness.**

Building and Fire Research Laboratory – ASCE believes that the services provided by the Building and Fire Research Laboratory (BFRL) are invaluable to the building industry. BFRL works to improve the productivity of U.S. construction industries and serves as the premier fire research laboratory in the U.S. It develops technologies to predict, measure, and test the performance of construction materials, components and practices. BFRL is the nation's central laboratory for providing the tools (i.e. research and measurements) needed to rebuild the nation's infrastructure.

Laboratory activities include: fire science and fire safety engineering; building materials; computer-integrated construction practices; structural, mechanical and environmental engineering; and building economics. The laboratory conducts investigations at the scene of major fires and structural failures due to earthquakes, hurricanes or other causes. The knowledge gained from these investigations guides research and is applied to recommendations for design and construction practices to reduce future hazards.

Construction is one of the nation's largest industries, comparable in size to the health care and agricultural industries. Like those vital areas of the nation's economy, the construction industry needs research and development to enhance international competitiveness and increase public health and safety. Funding for construction-related research, from all sources, is a fraction of that available to the healthcare and agricultural industries. Due to the fragmented nature of the construction industry, the private sector does not have the resources to conduct the needed research and development on its own.

National Construction Safety Team Act – Public Law 107-231 - created the National Construction Safety Team at NIST with the mandate to investigate major building failures within the United States. The investigations are conducted to establish the technical causes of building failures and evaluate the technical aspects of emergency response. The goal is to recommend improvements to the way in which buildings are designed, constructed, maintained, and used. ASCE supported this act; however ASCE believes that NIST must be provided with the

necessary resources. The National Construction Safety Team (NCST) Advisory Committee, established by the Act has recommended to Congress the creation of a NCST office and funding.

ASCE supports these recommendations and urges Congress to appropriate an additional $2 million in FY 2009 to create a NCST office within the Building and Fire Research Laboratory at NIST.

VII. National Science Foundation (NSF)

ASCE supports the Administration's request for $6.85 billion for NSF, an increase of approximately $800 million over the FY 2008 appropriations. However, in order to carry out the many functions of NSF, ASCE urges Congress to fund NSF at its full funding level as authorized by the COMPETES Act of $7.326 billion.

In recent years, Congress has increasingly recognized that, to remain technologically and economically competitive, our country is dependent on long-term investment in federal research and education programs in science and engineering. The support that the federal government has provided for NSF in a period of budgetary stringency has helped this country to retain its world leadership position in research and education in both science and engineering. That position is under unprecedented challenge from foreign nations newly committed to establishing leadership positions in research and technology development.

National investment in NSF research and education programs produces the new knowledge and the trained scientists and engineers indispensable to our future economic vitality and national security. ASCE strongly believes that Congress must maintain and increase that support.

Math and Science Partnerships - We encourage you to continue the federal commitment to math and science education by maintaining the peer-reviewed Math and Science Partnerships (MSP's) at the NSF and supporting robust funding for both the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the NSF Math and Science Partnership programs. We urge you to oppose the Administration's budget proposal that would phase-out the NSF MSP program in favor of the new federal grant administered by the Secretary of Education. The proposal that would, in effect, limit individual states' discretion to target much-needed funds for local science and mathematics education reforms.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity for ASCE to express its views. If you need more information, contact Martin Hight, ASCE Senior Manager of Government Relations at (202) 326-5125 or by e-mail at mhight@asce.org.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you very much for your testimony, Mr. Natale.

Mr. NATALE. Thank you.

Next the Committee would like to welcome to the hearing our distinguished colleague, representative from Michigan, Mr. Joseph Knollenberg.

Joe, you will be interested to know if you do not already that Mr. Coast testified very well, effectively for the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center. I know that is a program that you are very interested in. We welcome you here to the hearing and look forward to your testimony.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

MICHIGAN MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY CENTER

MEP

WITNESS

HON. JOSEPH KNOLLENBERG, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, thank you very kindly and the assembly of people we have here. Appreciate the opportunity.

And this is all about the Manufacturing Extension Partnership which I have been in favor of for many, many years and so I am back asking for the same consideration.

To say that the manufacturing sector is important to my district and to the State of Michigan is really an understatement. In my district alone, there is something like 1,500 manufacturing entities and 93 percent of them have less than 100 employees.

My district also includes the headquarters of over one-fourth of the 100 largest auto suppliers in North America. In the State of Michigan, over 15,000 small and medium-sized manufacturers are the industrial foundation of metropolitan centers and an anchor for good jobs in smaller cities and towns.

The manufacturing sector in this country faces many challenges. There are several major issues that we and other policymakers at the federal level need to address to improve the business environment for manufacturers to help them become more competitive. We are working on those, but they will take some time.

The MEP Program has a direct impact on thousands of small and medium-sized manufacturers every year. I believe we should focus on programs that reap large rewards for our manufacturers and have strong bipartisan support. And that is why I have made the funding of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership one of my top priorities in the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill.

As you know, the MEP is a federal, state, private network of 59 centers with over 350 locations in all 50 states. These not-for-profit centers work with small and medium-sized manufacturers to help them adopt and use the latest and the most efficient technologies, processes, and business practices.

Just as an example, some of the things that they deal with are they found that utilizing some of the concepts that have been

brought about. They have reduced their inventory. They increased the effectiveness of their assembly line. In the end, we create jobs by this. We also save jobs and the productivity actually increases. So it is a good thing.

The MEP Center in my home state, the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center or MMTC helps Michigan's small and medium-sized manufacturing companies become more competitive and remain that way. Founded in 1991, MMTC has six offices in Michigan with 55 staffers in the state. And I have heard from numerous companies throughout Michigan that have benefitted from MMTC's services.

I would like to tell you about one that I visited just last week or two weeks ago. This is a company by the name of Universal Tube, Incorporated. It is a family-owned operation and it specializes in precision tube bending, tube fabrication, and brazed tubular assemblies, all of which are used in the auto industry and beyond.

Founded in 1980, Universal Tube employs approximately 200 individuals and is located in my district in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

I recently, as I say, had the pleasure of meeting and to get some of the improvements that they have made by their work with MMTC. Universal Tube manufactures products that are used in a variety of applications, including automotive, refrigeration, and household appliances.

While Universal Tube was employing some lean principles, you are familiar with the L-E-A-N principles, in its manufacturing process, before its relationship with MMTC began, it was looking for guidance on how to further streamline its operations without the trial and error approach, to lean it, that it had been using in the past.

MMTC's work with Universal Tube to employ more lean principles and techniques is ongoing and data showing results at this point is incomplete. However, from an initial assessment, which was performed just in December of 2007, an initial cost savings of more than $400,000 was identified as a direct result of its work to streamline operations.

It is my hope that Universal Tube will be able to continue its work with MMTC to improve its operations in order to eliminate waste, increase productivity, and create more high-paying jobs in the community.

Another example of the positive effect of MMTC is another manufacturer that is called Total Door. They are located in my district and Total Door is a privately-owned company that has manufactured doors and related hardware for over 30 years. In fact, their facility with over 50 full-time employees represents one of the last remaining American manufacturers in the door industry.

Total Door's products can be found in hospitals, in schools, in hotels, and many other commercial buildings throughout the country. Total Door has experienced increased success primarily because of its efforts and joint efforts with MMTC to expand its facility, add machinery, and teach lean principles to its employees.

The effort to expand operations while simultaneously streamline its current operations allowed Total Door to increase its production by almost ten percent. This added more than 514,000 to its bottom line in 2007, a year after working with MMTC.

The additional revenue has prompted Total Door to reinvest this capital in new technology and research and development projects. This reinvestment is the perfect example of how MEP helps manufacturers streamline their operations and solidify their position in the global market, which ultimately enables companies to provide stable jobs and deliver consistent economic impact in their communities.

Universal Tube and Total Door are just two examples of the effect MEP has on manufacturers nationwide. And by the way, I visited a variety of these companies over the last several years. It is always interesting to get inside, listen to them. You are talking to the boss. You are also talking to some of the employees who actually it has increased some of their interest in the operation. And I have been told productivity increases because they get a little bit of excitement about what they are doing by virtue of what MEP has done to help them.

And they are just two examples, as I say, of all of those that are out there. MEP helped generate or retain over 52,000 jobs and more than 6.7 billion in sales and stimulated some 1.65 in economic growth through increasing the client investments in modernization.

Additionally, MEP clients reported over 1.1 billion in cost savings directly attributable to the program's assistance. MEP is a proven commodity in the manufacturing sector and is invaluable to our small manufacturers.

As vital as this program is to our manufacturers, fiscal year 2009 funding is vital to MEP. And as you know, MEP was funded at a level of 89.6 million last year. That was fiscal year 2008. This year, the President's budget requests something in the neighborhood of four million, which is hardly a slice.

What I would call that would be literally the destruction of this program entirely. And the reduction in funding will kill MEP. It will force MEP centers to close down and it will cause small manufacturers to miss out on some significant increases in sales and cost savings.

So it will also cause potentially greater job losses. Michigan is one of those states that has lost jobs in each of the last six years and, quite honestly, we cannot bear any more of those.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate very much your allowing me to speak here today. I respectfully urge you and your colleagues on the Subcommittee to appropriate, I am asking for 122 million for MEP for fiscal year 2009. This is the authorized level in the recently-enacted "America Competes Act."

And as I have outlined today, the results, I believe, speak for themselves as the federal investment in MEP directly produces results that help American families and the American economy. I simply cannot imagine ending a program that works and works very, very well.

And with that, I will conclude. And if you have any questions, I will be happy to respond.

[Written testimony of Congressman Joseph K. Knollenberg.]

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March 19, 2008

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan:

I am writing to request the Subcommittee appropriate $122 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program in the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. This request is the authorized level provided in the recently enacted *America COMPETES Act* (PL 110-69).

Manufacturing continues to be important to this country's economy, representing one-eighth of GDP in 2005, but the challenges to remain competitive are increasing. Since 2000, the U.S. trade deficit has increased by $331 billion, or forty-three percent. The $122 million funding level is necessary for MEP to ensure the sustainability and growth of our domestic small manufacturing industry and high-quality, high-paying jobs.

MEP assists America's small manufacturers and helps boost productivity, sales, investments in modernization, and employment. Manufacturing was a significant contributor to the economy's expansion in the 1990s, and small manufacturers are the engines that increase and power productivity and job growth. Small manufacturers employ over six million Americans and account for approximately fifty-seven percent of the value of all manufactured goods in the American economy.

MEP is one of the most successful federal/state partnerships in government. MEP clients achieve productivity gains that are more than four times greater than comparable firms that do not receive MEP assistance. Furthermore, MEP clients are increasing sales, hiring workers, and investing in plant modernization. In fiscal year 2006 alone, MEP clients reported 52,585 new or retained workers, sales of $6.765 billion, cost savings of $1.115 billion, and plant and equipment investments of $1.65 billion. These results are a direct correlation to clients' MEP assistance.

A $122 million appropriation for MEP in fiscal year 2009 is critical to the sustainability and growth of our domestic manufacturing sector. The approximately 341,000 small manufacturers account for over half of the total value of U.S. production and represent ninety-seven percent of manufacturing establishments. Small

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manufacturing jobs are high-skilled and high-wage, with manufacturing employees earning thirty-six percent more than retail employees per hour.

Manufacturing is one of our country's greatest economic strengths and MEP is an invaluable program that helps manufacturers improve productivity and compete in the global marketplace. Without unwavering strong federal support, MEP will be unable to maintain its mission of serving America's small manufacturers increasing needs. At a time when economic recovery, supply chain reliability for consumer and defense goods, and global competitiveness are national priorities, I believe MEP continues to be a wise investment. That is why I respectfully request that you appropriate $122 million for MEP in fiscal year 2009.

Thank you for your consideration and I appreciate the opportunity to offer my recommendation. Should you have further questions or concerns regarding my request, please feel free to contact me or Eric Brown on my staff at 5-5802.

Sincerely,

Joe

Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you very much, Joe, for your testimony.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thanks for being a strong advocate for Michigan MEP. I hosted your MEP Director in my office this morning.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Well, thank you, Mr. Frelinghuysen. I appreciate that very much. And I certainly appreciate this Committee which is heretofore been very successful in helping us bring that level up to something that is in the neighborhood of what we like to see.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. We appreciate the bipartisan support expressed for the program.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Thank you very much.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Joe. I appreciate that.

Next the Committee would like to welcome Mr. Elbridge Coochise, Independent Review Team on Tribal Courts.

Mr. Coochise, welcome to the hearing today.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

TRIBAL COURTS

WITNESS

ELBRIDGE COOCHISE, INDEPENDENT REVIEW BOARD ON TRIBAL COURTS

Mr. COOCHISE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity. My name is Elbridge Coochise and we are part of the Independent Review Team. I have two of my colleagues with me here today. We want to address the serious funding needs for tribal courts.

We have been in the process of reviewing for the last two years. Out of the 156 tribes that receive federal funding, we have reviewed 35 of those court systems and we are finding that on the average, most of the courts are only 26 percent federal dollars for the operation of their courts.

But what we are here requesting and recommending is the "Indian Tribal Justice Act" was passed in 1993 with an authorization level of 58.4 million. It was reauthorized in 2000 and then last year, 2007, it is in the process of being authorized. So we are requesting that 58.4.

And then last fiscal year, 2008, for tribal courts under the Department of Justice, 8.63 million was enacted and we are requesting to increase that to 11.6 for fiscal year 2009 in the 2009 budget for the Tribal Justice Office in the Department of Justice.

With the emphasis from the Department of the Interior and OMB to look at the tribal courts and how they are operating and especially how they are spending their money, we found that all the courts we reviewed have been, of course, with only that much money, they are spending it for the court systems. Apparently there was some information that it was being diverted elsewhere. But what our findings are is that is being spent totally on court systems.

And with the increase of not only the meth problems but other issues, increase for law enforcement, even for the courts to handle

it, we need to get the funding to the courts to handle issues before the intertribal communities. So that is what we are asking for.

And last year, Congress appropriated 2.3 million additional funds which were not being cut from the budget, but I understand the Interior Department that they are going to reissue those and appropriate those same dollars. So what we are asking for here is for what is in the Department of Justice for tribal courts.

A lot of the courts that are getting money from Justice are those that in Public Law 280 states that are not eligible for funding from the Department of Interior and there is a number, about 34 new courts that are being started in California and Alaska and different places and they need the funds to operate their systems.

So that is kind of short. You have the information in my written comments. And if there are any questions, I would be glad to answer them.

There is one thing that is good. There is 299 courts in Indian County even though there are 558 tribes, so only about half have their own court system.

[Written testimony of Elbridge Coochise, Chief Justice Retired, Independent Tribal Courts Review Team.]

Oral Testimony Of
Elbridge Coochise, Chief Justice, Retired
Independent Tribal Courts Review Team
Before The House Commerce, Justice, Science And
Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
On The Fiscal Year 2009
For The Office of Tribal Justice, Department of Justice

April 2, 2008

Thank you and I am honored for the opportunity to be here to represent the Independent Tribal Court Review Team. I would like to address the serious funding needs of Tribal Courts and our requests and recommendations for the ***Fiscal Year 2009 Budget for the Office of Tribal Justice in the Department of Justice.***

For the past two years, our Independent Review Team, under a commercial contract by the BIA, has been traveling throughout Indian Country reviewing 25 Tribal and CFR Courts. The scope of our research project, the first of its kind, was to:

1) Provide assistance to Tribes by performing an assessment of their Tribal Courts; and,
2) Provide information to the BIA and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regarding the status of Tribal Courts.

We are confident that this is the most comprehensive information compilation effort ever undertaken, *and completed*, regarding Tribal Courts and it is the strong recommendation of the Independent Tribal Courts Review Team that the Federal Tribal Courts budget be substantially increased in the FY 2009 budget. Our Team has been to 25 Tribal Courts and we feel safe in saying that there is no one with more awareness of the current needs of Tribal Courts than our Review Team.

Budget Priorities, Request and Recommendations - $70.0 Million

1. **+ $58.4 million authorized under the Indian Tribal Justice Act of 1993, P.L. 103-176, 25 USC 3601 and re-authorized in year 2000 P.L. 106-559 (no funds to date)**
2. **+$11.6 million above the FY 08 enacted level for Tribal Courts**
3. **Support the continuance of set-asides in the Office of Tribal Justice Programs**

Justification

There are approximately 299 tribal judicial systems in Indian country and 156 of these tribal and BIA Courts of Indian Offenses, commonly referred to as CFR Courts (Code of Federal Regulations), are BIA funded. All Tribal Court operational costs are funded under contracts, which provide less than 74% of need.

The President's FY 2008 enacted levels are inadequate to support the operations and utility of the Tribal Justice Systems. We respectfully request Congress to take a close look at these funding levels. Our research did not identify any area that could withstand a decrease without causing harm to Tribal Court systems and Indian people. Specifically, we request the following funding in the FY 2009 budget above the FY 2008 enacted levels:

Line Items	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Tribal Requests
Tribal Courts	$ 8.630 million	+ $11.6 million
Tribal Grants		
Youth Programs	$14.1 million	+10 million
Indian Alcohol & Substance Abuse	$ 5.180 million	+$10 million
Construction	$ 8.630 million	+$10 million
Sex Offender	$ 940,000	+$5 million
Indian Country Detention Centers	$ 8.630 million	+$10 million

The Justice Department has developed grants for a variety of current Tribal Courts programs. Unfortunately, those grants will eventually run out and it is doubtful that most Tribes will have the funds to continue to provide those services. Some Tribes, unfortunately, do not place a priority on seeking grant funds for exactly this reason. In addition, some of those grants fund what are generally considered to be permanent Court needs, such as Judge or clerk. As Examiners, we mention to Tribes that they should not rely on grant funds as permanent funding. However, most Tribes have few other means to fund permanent positions. Federal resources used for temporary grant-funded Tribe Court initiatives too often turn out to be temporary programs. (We also note that the Tribes who need the most assistance tend to be the Tribes least able to acquire grant funds.) We wonder if it would be better if such funding were placed into a permanent Tribal Court funding account.

It is a positive thing if a Tribe has recognized some Court needs and used its grant writers to find grant money to address those needs. To decrease the potential for harm when those funds are discontinued, those programs should contain or require the Tribe to develop formal plans for when the funds no longer exist. This would include, for example, redistribution of a caseload, records transfer and seeking new continuation funding. We general recommend the Court develop formal plans to address what will happen to projects in planning for the eventual loss of grant funds, particularly for those projects and positions which would otherwise be considered permanent.

It is to the credit of many Tribes that they do seek and have had success in obtaining grant funds for the Courts. Grant funds enable the Court to supplement staff or develop programs needed by the Tribe. Several areas, funded through grants, have proven to be successful, regardless of how brief the grant is and regardless of the relative size and wealth of the Tribe. This includes Computerization, Staff Development and Training, Code Development and grants curbing Methamphetamine Abuse.

Tribes are expected to make do with money from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The elimination of these funds will be catastrophic to the Tribal Courts and Judicial Systems. The

remaining funds will only assist a small number of Tribes, hardly the intent of the Indian Tribal Justice Act. It was the intent of all involved to examine and determine the adequacy of the current Federal funding levels for Tribal Courts. Our research indicates that Tribal Courts are at a critical stage in terms of need. Tribal Court systems have Trial and Appellate Courts, conduct jury trials, within Courthouses that need improvements, and Tribal Bar listings and fees. Nationwide, there are 156 Tribes with Courts that receive Federal Funding. These Tribes divide a mere $11.4 million in Federal funds. Tribal Courts must deal with the very same issues state and Federal Courts confront in the criminal context, including, child sexual abuse, alcohol and substance abuse, (namely Methamphetamine), gang violence and violence against women just to name a few. Tribal Courts, however, must address these complex issues with far less financial resources than their Federal and state counterparts.

It is clear that Tribal Courts and justice systems are vital and important to the communities where they are located. Tribes value and want to be proud of their Court systems. There are many positive aspects about Tribal Courts. After decades of existence, many Tribal Courts, despite minimal funding, have achieved a level of experience and sophistication approaching, and in some cases surpassing, local non-Indian Courts. Tribal Courts, through the Indian Child Welfare .Act, have mostly stopped the wholesale removal of Indian children from their families. Indian and Non-Indian Courts have developed formal and informal agreements regarding jurisdiction. Tribal governments have recognized the benefit of having law-trained Judges, without doing away with Judges who have cultural/traditional experience. Judicial training that addresses the existing problems in Indian Country, while also being culturally sensitive, is essential if our efforts are to be effective in deterring and solving crime in Indian communities.

With the passage of the Indian Tribal Justice Act, P.L. 103-176, 25 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq. (the "Act"), Congress found that "[T]ribal justice systems are an essential part of tribal governments and serve as important forums for ensuring public health, safety and the political integrity of tribal governments." 25 U.S.C. § 3601(5). Congress found that "tribal justice systems are inadequately funded, and the lack of adequate funding impairs their operation." 25 U.S.C. § 3601(8). In order to remedy this lack of funding, the Act authorized appropriation of base funding support for tribal justice systems in the amount of $50 million for each of the fiscal years 1994 through 2000. 25 U.S.C. § 3621(b). An additional $500,000 for each of the same fiscal years was authorized to be appropriated for the administration of Tribal Judicial Conferences for the "development, enhancement and continuing operation of tribal justice systems . . ." 25 U.S.C. § 3614.

Our research also indicates that grant programs at Justice were only moderately effective. Tribes often did not have funding to maintain grant funded programs after the conclusion of the grant. These programs were often eliminated after the conclusion of the grant. We did, however, identify several areas where grants were, or could be effective. These are grants providing for:

> Computer Upgrade, Training and Court Management Software. Tribes generally do not have available funds to upgrade their use of computer technology. Increased use of computer technology improves the function of the Court and even may result in Court staff savings due to the decreased staff time needs.

Digitizing of Tribal Codes. Tribes most often collect their Codes in very large three ring binders. Everyone does not always receive new law. It is difficult to obtain a copy of the Code. If Codes are digitized, they can be easily distributed on CD and even be placed on the Tribal website. The result is a more efficient system

Development of MOU/MOAs with Local Non-Indian Jurisdictions - There is a large and growing problem resulting from the *Oliphant* Case. Tribal jurisdictions have no control over unlawful acts committed by non-Indian offenders. This has specifically resulted in drug dealers and methamphetamine labs moving on to Indian lands. Many Tribes and non-Indian jurisdictions have developed MOU/MOAs that provide for jurisdictional compromise between Law Enforcement and Courts. More of these agreements should be encouraged.

Administration of Tribal Courts - Tribal legislatures and Administration generally have several areas of relationship; including hiring, payroll, and financial administration of the Court. Often, Tribal governments are confused and very concerned about where to draw the line regarding the relationship with the Court. They do NOT want to violate the Courts independence. Tribes need help to formally develop the relationship between the Courts and other governmental entities. This may include such things as development of an over-site committee and a judicial employment contract.

Independent Tribal Court Review Team Report Findings

The Independent Tribal Court Review Team completed the Tribal & CFR Court Reviews Project FY-2006 Final Report. The Report contains 132 Findings regarding all areas involving Tribal Courts. Many of the Findings support the recommendations made above, including several indicating that Tribal Courts are under-funded. We list some of these below:

Finding #38: The Federal Funds are inadequate to fund most Court needs. Other Court needs such as technology, supplies, travel and training, are usually assumed by the Tribe. These needs are often provided by decreasing available funds for Tribal Programs. Or, the needs are simply not provided and the Courts must make due without these services.

Finding #32: Almost all Courts are under-funded. Court budgets vary widely. When you get beyond the few Tribes with very successful economic development ventures, a substantial number of the Courts, approximately 90%, are under-funded. They are missing staff positions and common items such as a safe, a Court recording system, telephone systems, or security systems. Almost every Court that is under-funded is still mostly functional.

Finding #33: Many are under-funded at a critical level. Some contracted Courts are very poor. There are Courts with only a part-time Judge and a Clerk. They must rely on Administration for simple items, such as printer ink. There is no training. Salaries are below the poverty level. We have seen Courts that operate on less than $25,000 per year. We have seen groups of Tribes with low Federal funding numbers joined into a single overworked Court system that can only provide limited service.

Finding #6: A very small number of Tribes have large amounts of available economic development funds. These Tribes (about 10%) are those few with very successful economic development ventures. These Tribes contribute 90% or more of the funding to their Courts. These Tribes pay well, they have several Attorneys on staff, including on the Court staff and have fully funded law enforcement. These Tribes are better trained and experientially and financially able to deal with Court matters, including criminal matters, than local city, county and state governments.

Finding #5: Most Tribal economic development funds provide jobs and pay for a modest amount of other governmental services. The biggest fallacy about Indian Nations is that gaming has made all Tribes rich. (This fallacy isn't always bad. It often encourages non-Indian governments and law enforcement to work with the Tribe.) The vast majority of Tribes has limited economic development that 1) funds itself and 2) can modestly assist Tribal programs and the Court budgets. A portion of Tribes has no economic development or economic development that only funds itself.

Finally, the Indian Civil Rights Act: A Report of the United States Civil Rights Commission, June 1991 found that "the failure of the United States Government to provide proper funding for the operation of tribal judicial systems . . . has continued for more than 20 years." The Commission also noted that "[f] unding for tribal judicial systems may be further hampered in some instances by the pressures of competing priorities within a tribe." Moreover, they opined that "If the United States Government is to live up to its trust obligations, it must assist tribal governments in their development . . ." More than sixteen years ago, the Commission "strongly support[ed] the pending and proposed Congressional initiatives to ***authorize funding of Tribal Courts in an amount equal to that of an equivalent State Court***" and was "hopeful that this increased funding [would] allow for much needed increases in salaries for judges, the retention of law clerks for tribal judges, the funding of public defenders/defense counsel and increased access to legal authorities."

We Are Still Hopeful That These Recommendations Will Come To Fruition!

On behalf of the Independent Tribal Court Review Team: Charles D. Robertson Jr., Esquire, Honorable Philip D. Lujan, Court Reporter Myrna Rivera and Honorable Elbridge Coochise, thank you again for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Team Leader Elbridge Coochise at 602-418-8937 or Charles D. Robertson, Jr. at 605-390-0061.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. We appreciate very much your testimony here today. I think we understand that federal participation and funding for tribal courts and systems are inadequate. We appreciate your testimony for highlighting that and focusing more specifically on where those inadequacies exist. And we look forward to working with you. We are concerned about this and appreciate very much your coming here to testify on behalf of the—

Mr. COOCHISE. Well, we thank you for allowing us to come and at least address your Committee. So any other questions, I would be glad to——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, we look forward to working with you, Justice.

Mr. COOCHISE. Okay.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. For the record, will you tell us your tribe.

Mr. COOCHISE. I am a member of the Hopi Tribe in Arizona and I retired from the bench ten years ago. So that is why I am involved in looking at the other court systems.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We appreciate your length of service and your request.

Mr. COOCHISE. Okay. Thank you very much.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Justice.

Next the Committee would like to welcome the Chairman of the Science Authorizing Committee, Mr. Bart Gordon.

Bart, welcome.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

AMERICA COMPETES ACT

WITNESS

HON. BART GORDON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mr. GORDON. Thank you, Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and Mr. Ruppersberger. Thank you for letting me be here to testify on the 2009 appropriation for the "Competes Act."

You have been following this and are well aware, so I will try to be brief and to the point.

Last August, the Congress in a bipartisan, overwhelming fashion passed the "Competes Act." It was signed by the President in August and it supports a wide range of activities to make this country more competitive.

The bill passed, I think, so overwhelmingly because it was supported by the business roundtable, by the Chamber of Commerce, by the National Association of Manufacturers, every university and scientific group in the country. And the reason is it so important is that it goes to the heart of trying to be competitive in this global market.

Right now there is about six and a half billion people in the world, half of which make less than $2.00 a day. That is something that we do not want to get into that race. If we do, it means that our kids and grand kids will inherit a national standard of living less than their parents.

So if they are making two or three widgets in Indo China, we have got to be making fifty or sixty in this country. And so that again goes to R&D and to a better trained workforce.

And to be more specific, in terms of the National Science Foundation, we are recommending that this Subcommittee fund at the level of 7.059 billion, which is the Administration's request, plus $205 million. The additional money goes to the Robert North Teacher Scholarship Program and the Math and Science Partnership.

This is a program already in existence within the National Science Foundation. It has proved to be very effective. We are just scanning it out. The reason for this, it is the number one recommendation of the Gathering Storm report. And let me give you a quick overview.

This program is being used at University of Texas. It's the You Teach Program. It is also being used at the University of California. You know, we constantly see the statistics about how poorly our students are doing. The most recent in the industrialized countries are that in math, our students scored 25th out of 30. In science, we were 21st out of 25.

When you look at that, you know, you say, well, are we not as smart as other countries or what is the problem. The problem is that 63 percent of the high school and middle school math teachers have neither a certification to teach math or a major. Ninety-three percent of the physical science teachers in our middle schools have neither certification to teach physical science or have a major.

It is not that they are not good teachers and good folks just like my father. He was an ag major. When I was born, my mother lost her job. She was working in a cafeteria. So my father had to get a second job. He was a farmer.

So he applied to teach. He was the last person hired at Severna High School. And so since he was the last person hired, he was required to teach high school science and coach the girls' basketball. I am not sure which he knew the least about. And, you know, 40 years later, we are doing it the same way.

And so what we are trying to do is two things with these scholarships. We will provide again scaling out a proven program. We will provide scholarships for those students that will go into math or science and education and agree to teach for five years.

Five years is important because half of teachers leave within five years, or we are also going to provide stipends for those good teachers that are out there now that want to come back in and get their certification.

So this is a good program. And, again, we are asking just for what the President wants, plus scaling out this good program.

Within NIST, we are asking for the authorization level which is $882 million. That is $244 million above the Administration's request. The reason for that is that the Administration proposes eliminating the TIPs or Technology Innovation Program as well as the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Both programs on a bipartisan basis have been overwhelmingly supported in our Committee. They have been proven to provide thousands of jobs for this country.

And I will just point out that we have the lowest number of manufacturing jobs in America now that we have had since 1950. The MEP Program and the TIP Program will help us turn that around.

And so once again, it is a high priority of our Committee. And I know that you all have been dealing with these programs for a while, so I will not go into more of that other than to say that I think this is a responsible request.

[Written testimony of Congressman Bart Gordon.]

Written Testimony of Rep. Bart Gordon
Chairman, House Committee on Science and Technology
to the
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
March 28, 2008

I am submitting this statement today in support of FY2009 funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) similar to the levels authorized in the America COMPETES Act (P.L. 110-69). I applaud this Subcommittee's recognition of the importance of science to our nation's competitiveness and your support for federal R&D funding. For NSF, I would ask for total funding of $7.059 billion, which is $205 million above the President's request and $265 million below the authorized level. This specifically includes $115 million for the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program, which I believe is absolutely critical for mobilizing this program as it was conceived in COMPETES. For NIST, I would ask for the authorized level of $882 million, which is $244 million above the President's request. The President's request eliminates approximately $250 million for the Technology Innovation Program (TIP) and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) - manufacturing and business stimulus programs at NIST - and the $882 million level assumes we reject the President's proposals.

Following World War II and throughout much of the 20th century, the United States became a world leader in science and innovation, and economic indicators demonstrated that the United States offered a high standard of living to its citizens. In fact, the U.S. economy grew substantially, and economists estimate that about half of U.S. economic growth was the result of technological innovation.

In the 1990's however, during a period in which the United States was known as the world's lone "superpower", a number of indicators suggested that U.S. prosperity was diminishing. In 1990, the United States had a trade surplus in high-technology products of $54 billion. That surplus turned into a trade deficit of $50 billion by 2004. A number of iconic American companies moved assets, jobs, and ownership overseas. And, American students performed poorly in several international assessments of math and science achievement.

In 2005, I joined Congressman Sherwood Boehlert and Senators Lamar Alexander and Jeff Bingaman in asking the National Academies to conduct a study of "the most urgent challenges the United States faces in maintaining leadership in key areas of science and technology." Later that year, the National Academies issued a report entitled *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*. The report offered four recommendations:

- Recommendation A: Increase America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 science and mathematics education.
- Recommendation B: Sustain and strengthen the nation's traditional commitment to long-term basic research that has the potential to be transformational to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy, provide security, and enhance the quality of life.

- Recommendation C: Make the United States the most attractive setting in which to study and perform research so that we can develop, recruit, and retain the best and brightest students, scientists, and engineers from within the United States and throughout the world.
- Recommendation D: Ensure that the United States is the premier place in the world to innovate; invest in downstream activities such as manufacturing and marketing; and create high-paying jobs based on innovation by such actions as modernizing the patent system, realigning tax policies to encourage innovation, and ensuring affordable broadband access.

The *Gathering Storm* report quickly became influential in promoting a national agenda on innovation and competitiveness. Following inaction on competitiveness proposals in the 109th Congress, my colleagues and I introduced five bills (H.R. 362, H. R. 363, H.R. 364, H.R. 1867, and H.R. 1868) which eventually were included in broader legislation (H.R. 2272, the 21st Century Competitiveness Act) to implement a majority of the National Academies' recommendations. The Democratic Innovation agenda, re-released to start the 110th Congress, also made competitiveness a top priority, calling to:

> "Place a highly qualified teacher in math, science, and technology K-12 classrooms by offering upfront tuition assistance to talented undergraduates majoring in math, science or engineering who agree to teach in a high needs school, investing in 25,000 new teachers through professional development, summer training institutes, graduate education assistance, and scholarships, and partnering community colleges with four-year institutions to improve the teacher pipeline."
>
> "Double funding for the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science within the next 10 years and make a long-term, sustained commitment to these crucial investments in basic research and development and those at other agencies that serve as the building blocks of technological advancement."
>
> "Provide grants for outstanding researchers in the early stages of their careers, establish a Presidential innovation award, and create a national coordination office to identify and prioritize research infrastructure needs at universities and national laboratories."
>
> "Fund proven public-private partnerships. Double funding within 10 years for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which leverages federal, state, and private investments to implement and stimulate new manufacturing processes and technologies. Create a new initiative, the Technology Innovation Program (TIP), to better reflect global innovation competition by funding high-risk, high-reward, pre-competitive technology development, focusing on small and medium-sized companies."

Ultimately, the conference report for H.R. 2272, the America COMPETES Act, passed the House by a vote of 367-57 and the Senate by unanimous consent.

COMPETES seeks to ensure U.S. students, teachers, businesses, and workers are prepared to continue leading the world in innovation, research, and technology. Specifically, the law:

- Keeps research programs at NSF and NIST on a near-term doubling path;

- Helps to prepare new teachers and helps current teachers improve their skills through NSF's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program and Math and Science Partnerships Program;
- Creates the Technology Innovation Program (TIP) at NIST (replacing the existing Advanced Technology Program or ATP) to fund high-risk, high-reward, pre-competitive technology development at small entrepreneurial firms with high potential for public benefit; and
- Puts the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which provides cost-shared technical assistance to small manufacturers to modernize their operations, on a path to doubling over 10 years.

The President's FY2009 budget request proposes funding increases for physical sciences research programs as part of the American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI), many of which are consistent with increases authorized in COMPETES. However, the Administration's budget ignores or neglects several core areas of COMPETES, including math and science education activities at NSF and manufacturing and technology stimulus programs at NIST.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is the primary source of Federal funding for non-biomedical research conducted at colleges and universities, including 86 percent of funding for computer sciences, 77 percent of funding for mathematical sciences, 54 percent of funding for environmental sciences, 46 percent of funding for engineering, and 40 percent of funding for the physical sciences. In addition, since its creation in 1950, NSF has been tasked with strengthening science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels. NSF's education programs are unique in their peer review processes, their linkage to higher education, and their resulting capacity to develop new and improved educational materials and assessments, create better teacher training techniques, and move promising ideas from research to educational practice.

NSF's funding of basic research across nearly all fields of science and engineering and its education programs to prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers, as well as to increase the scientific and technical literacy of all Americans, provide the underpinnings for assuring future U.S. economic competitiveness and national security.

The President's FY2009 budget request would provide $6.854 billion for NSF. While the authorized amount for NSF in FY 2009 is $7.326 billion, I am requesting that the Subcommittee consider total funding of $7.059 billion – the President's request plus an additional $205 million for the NSF Education and Human Resources Directorate. The additional funding would be used to fully fund the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program, which will provide scholarships for STEM majors who take tailored courses needed to become certified as teachers and agree to teach for two years for each year of scholarship support, and to fully fund the Math and Science Partnerships.

The top recommendation of the *Gathering Storm* report was to ensure K-12 STEM teachers across the country have strong content knowledge and effective teaching skills. The National Academies' cited the UTeach program, which was developed 10 years ago at the

University of Texas, as an example of what is working for STEM teacher education. Based on its success, UTeach has been used as a model by the State of California in an effort to reform STEM teacher education. Likewise, the private sector has pledged significant funding to expand this teacher education model nationwide. COMPETES takes this top recommendation and revamps NSF's Noyce scholarship. But under the Administration's budget, the Noyce program would receive only 10% of the funding needed to mobilize the new program. I strongly support fully funding the Noyce program at the authorized level of $115 million in FY2009.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY (NIST)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is a non-regulatory agency of the Department of Commerce and the nation's oldest Federal laboratory. Its mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science and supporting the development of technical standards. NIST's wide range of high-quality programs puts it in an excellent position to play a key role in enhancing U.S. competitiveness.

The America COMPETES Act provided the first comprehensive authorization of NIST's programs in 15 years, putting NIST on a 10-year path to doubling by authorizing balanced increases for both the intramural research laboratories and the extramural industrial technology programs. However, the Administration's FY2009 budget proposes only $638 million for NIST - increasing the intramural programs while eliminating or severely reducing funding for the extramural programs. I believe this is a mistake - the industrial technology programs have strong track records and serve a critical function in supporting U.S. competitiveness.

The proposal to eliminate Federal support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is particularly problematic. Since 2000, the nation has lost 3.4 million manufacturing jobs, 272,000 of which were in 2007 alone. MEP is the only Federal program that specifically targets small- and medium-sized manufacturers to help them modernize their operations, improve their competitiveness, and reduce or reverse job losses. According to a survey commissioned by NIST, small- and medium-sized manufacturers who used MEP services in FY2006 created or retained 52,000 jobs, increased or retained sales of $6.8 billion, leveraged $1.7 billion in new private-sector investment, and generated cost savings of $1.1 billion. I strongly disagree with the Administration's stated position that MEP can operate without Federal funding, and urge the Subcommittee to fully fund the program at $122 million.

The Administration also requested no funds for the Technology Innovation Program (TIP). TIP was created in COMPETES to provide cost-shared support for innovative technology development by small- and medium-sized companies and joint ventures, updating and building upon the proven success of the Advanced Technology Program (ATP). The Science and Technology Committee has heard numerous testimony that there is a systematic lack of private venture capital for high-risk, high-reward, seed-stage technology development, creating an urgent need for programs such as TIP to fill this gap. In addition, during hearings this year on reauthorization of the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), witnesses have consistently supported TIP as an important tool for reaping the benefits of Federal investment in basic nanotechnology research. A failure to fund these programs risks sacrificing opportunities for U.S. technical advancement and long-term economic growth. TIP plays an important role in

supporting U.S. innovation, and reducing or eliminating funding for it would significantly reduce U.S. economic competitiveness. I urge the Subcommittee to fully fund TIP at $131 million.

CONCLUSION

As we all know, the global marketplace continues to become more competitive. The fact of the matter is, our country cannot and should not compete with the rest of the world on wages when half of the world's workers earn less than $2 a day. Our country needs to compete at a higher level – with better skills and higher productivity. This was the goal of the America COMPETES Act.

The law presents a balanced set of policies to improve our country's short-term and long-term competitiveness. COMPETES invests in long-term science and research, but also short-term technology development and innovation. Just as importantly, COMPETES ensures not only that our nation will produce the world's leading scientists and engineers but also that all students will have a strong grounding in math and science and are prepared for technical jobs in every sector of the economy.

I urge you to fulfill the promises we made when we enacted the American COMPETES Act, and adequately fund the National Science Foundation, particularly the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology – both critical agencies in ensuring our nation's continued prosperity and economic growth.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, it is a responsible request and we very much appreciate working with the Authorizing Committee on these projects and your recommendation on these programs. You are doing an excellent job on the Science Committee and we appreciate the close working relationship.

Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I echo those sentiments exactly. Thank you so much.

Mr. GORDON. Yeah. I mean, I really feel like we have a partnership. This is not a gotcha kind of game. And our compliments to really our staff for trying to be in sync as we go along so that we do not—you know, we are trying to stay in line with what is reasonable. And I think us working together has helped us to do that.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, we both recognize what kind of budget requests we are operating in. And given that, we will certainly be as responsive as we can to the priorities that come out of the Science Committee.

Mr. GORDON. Great.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you.

Mr. GORDON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Next the Committee would like to welcome our colleague, Mr. Simpson, who is a member of the Appropriations Committee. Mr. Simpson is going to introduce the First Lady, Lori Otter of Idaho.

First Lady Otter and Mr. Simpson, welcome.

Mr. SIMPSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, members of the Committee.

It is my honor to introduce the First Lady of the State of Idaho. Most of you remember our colleague from the last term, Butch Otter, who ran for Governor and was elected Governor. Many of you wondered how that happened.

Ms. OTTER. I think we did.

Mr. SIMPSON. I believe that Lori got Butch more votes than Butch got Butch votes.

So Lori was a former Miss Idaho public school teacher for years in Idaho until what, 15 months ago when she became the First Lady of Idaho and is working currently on the Meth Project in Idaho and is here to give testimony on the Meth Project.

So I am going to leave her in your capable hands so that I can attend another meeting I have to go to, but I did want to be here to introduce Idaho's First Lady.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, thank you. This is obviously the nicest assignment you have today.

Mr. SIMPSON. Indeed it is.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. It is the briefest you have ever been.

Ms. OTTER. I threatened him.

Mr. SIMPSON. Thank you.

Ms. OTTER. Thank you, Congressman Simpson. Good to see you again as always.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And welcome, First Lady.

Ms. OTTER. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. We look forward to your testimony.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

METHAMPHETAMINE PREVENTION PROGRAM

WITNESS

LORI OTTER, FIRST LADY OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Ms. OTTER. Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and members of the Subcommittee, I very much appreciate the opportunity to share my positive experiences with the Methamphetamine Prevention Program that truly works and does save lives.

As Congressman Simpson so graciously introduced me, my name is Lori Otter. I am the First Lady of the State of Idaho and on behalf of Governor Otter, I am here today to urge you and the Committee to appropriate a dedicated source of Justice Department Funds in the fiscal year 2009 for meth prevention campaigns.

As a former educator and school administrator, I have seen firsthand the adverse effects of methamphetamine on our youth. And the Governor and I are committed to do everything we can to rid our state of this terrible scourge.

Just to give you a little point of reference, Idaho has 1.4 million people in our state. We rank fifth in the nation for methamphetamine use and that is not per capita. Methamphetamine is the number one illegal drug choice in Idaho and the state's leading drug problem.

High purity, low-cost methamphetamine is readily available and abused throughout our state. The financial and social consequences of meth abuse in Idaho are devastating and in spite of the reduction of meth labs due to your work in the Congress restricting laws on some of the ingredients in methamphetamine labs, the demand for this addictive drug has been replaced by imported methamphetamine.

In Idaho, one in five Idaho teens sees little or no risk in trying methamphetamine once or twice. Eighty percent of child foster care placements in our state are directly related to drug abuse with meth being the most prevalent. Last year, we had 199 foster care placements directly related to methamphetamine use where moms are obviously choosing methamphetamines over their children.

Sixty-three percent of felony drug court participants indicated in Idaho that methamphetamine is their drug of choice and one in thirty-four Idaho men are in prison or on probation or parole. Seventy-five percent of offenders with a drug problem say methamphetamine is their drug of choice. It is expensive. Sixty-six million is spent annually to house adult male inmates in Idaho who have a meth problem.

In early 2007, your former colleague in the House, Governor Butch Otter, and I announced plans to form the Idaho Meth Project based on the successful Meth Project developed in Montana. Many of you know Congressman Rehberg who has been instrumental in helping with that project.

So based on the successful Meth Project developed in Montana, we want to significantly reduce the prevalence of first-time methamphetamine use in Idaho.

So the project that we have adopted in our state is the Meth Project. It is a large-scale prevention program aimed at reducing first-time meth use through public service messaging, public policy, and community outreach. Central to the program is a research-based marketing campaign that graphically communicates the risk of meth use.

The Meth Project has been repeatedly cited as a powerful private-sector response to a devastating social problem and has been recognized by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy as one of the nation's most effective prevention programs.

The meth problem is becoming and is a national problem, typically rural, but moving rapidly east, so it is in everybody's best interest to have a replicable national solution that can be customized for each state.

First launched in Montana, the program has focused solely on prevention. Since its inception in 2005, the Meth project has achieved unprecedented results. Meth use among teens in Montana has declined by 45 percent. Meth related crime has dropped more than 62 percent. And the number of workers testing positive for meth has declined by 72 percent, the largest drop in the country.

The Meth Project has since expanded its programs to Arizona, Idaho, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, and Wyoming. Currently over 38 states have contacted the Meth Project as a potential prevention campaign.

The program approaches methamphetamine as a consumer product marketing problem. And it is the Meth Project's quest to unsell methamphetamine. The Meth Project has created a prevention program that includes rigorous measurement, focus groups, and research, state advisory boards, statewide community outreach.

Extensive use focus groups are also conducted and follow-up surveys are utilized on a regular basis to test messaging content and measure changes in attitudes and behavior which, if you had any association with use, is everything, attitude and behavior.

The program targets 12 to 17-year-olds with 18 to 24-year-olds and parents as secondary audiences. It is designed to start the conversation in the home about methamphetamine where it needs to happen to change attitudes and behaviors.

We believe that the public-private partnership is essential. There is a tremendous interest in replicating the Meth Project nationwide. As stated, leaders in 38 states are trying to bring the Meth Project to their state. To expand to other states reeling from meth abuse, we need a strong public-private partnership to fund and support these efforts.

The federal government needs to appropriate funds for a dedicated source strictly for meth prevention. The United States Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services or COPS Program offers an authorized funding vehicle for this.

On behalf of the citizens of Idaho, all 1.4 million of us, as well as the 38 state leaders who are reaching out to the Meth Project for an answer, I sincerely hope that Congress will respond to this challenge and appropriate $20 million of Justice Department funds fiscal year 2009 for meth prevention campaigns.

With the full support of Congress, we believe that we can dramatically change behavior and significantly reduce meth use. The Meth Project is working and it saves lives.

Thank you. Any questions?

[Written testimony of Lori Otter, First Lady of Idaho.]

Before the

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Statement of

Lori Otter
First Lady
State of Idaho
Idaho Meth Project

On

The Need for FY 2009 Justice Funding for Methamphetamine Prevention: Developing Sustainable Public-Private Partnerships to Reduce Meth Use

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

http://www.idahomethproject.org

Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and members of the Subcommittee, I very much appreciate the opportunity to share my positive experiences with a methamphetamine prevention program that truly works and saves lives.

I am Lori Otter, First Lady of the State of Idaho, and I am here today to urge the Committee to appropriate a dedicated source of Justice Department funds in Fiscal Year 2009 for meth prevention campaigns such as the one we have adopted and are implementing in the State of Idaho. As a former educator and school administrator, I have seen firsthand the impact of Meth on our youth – and the Governor and I are committed to doing everything we can to rid our state of this terrible scourge.

Methamphetamine trafficking and abuse in Idaho have been on the rise over the past few years and, as a result, Meth is having a devastating impact in many communities throughout our great state. Meth is the number one illegal drug of choice in Idaho and the state's leading drug problem. High purity, low cost Meth is readily available and abused throughout the state. The financial and social consequences of Meth abuse in Idaho are devastating and, in spite of the reduction in Meth labs, the demand for this addictive drug has been replaced by imported Meth. It is a contributing cause for much of the crime in Idaho, costs millions of dollars in productivity, contributes to the ever increasing jail and prison populations and adversely impacts families and children.

- 80% of the child placements by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare are directly related to drug abuse with Methamphetamine being the most prevalent;
- 63% of Idaho felony drug court participants indicate that Meth is their drug of choice;
- 52% of Idaho inmates directly attribute Meth use to their incarceration;
- 1 in 34 Idaho men are in prison or on probation or parole – 75% of offenders with a drug problem say that Meth is their drug of choice;
- $66 million is the amount the state of Idaho spends annually to house male inmates who admit to having a Meth problem.

Recognizing the tremendous impact of Meth on the state of Idaho, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and I announced plans to form the Idaho Meth Project in early 2007. Based on the successful Meth Project model developed in Montana, the goal and purpose of the Idaho Meth Project is to significantly reduce the prevalence of first-time Methamphetamine use in Idaho. A secondary objective of the Idaho Meth Project is to raise awareness of the scale, depth and critical nature of the Meth problem in the state.

Launched on January 7, 2008, the Meth Project under way in Idaho is a large-scale prevention program aimed at reducing first-time Meth use through public service messaging, public policy, and community outreach. Central to the program is a research-based marketing campaign that graphically communicates the risks of Meth use. The Meth Project has been repeatedly cited as a powerful private-sector response to a devastating social problem and was recently recognized by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy as one of the nation's most effective prevention programs.

A Replicable National Solution Customized for Each State

First launched in Montana as the Montana Meth Project, the program is focused solely on prevention. Since its inception in 2005, the Meth Project has achieved unprecedented results. Meth use among teens in Montana has declined by 45%, Meth-related crime has dropped more than 62%, and the number of workers testing positive for Meth has declined by 72% -- the largest drop in the country. The Meth Project has since expanded its programs into Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois and Wyoming.

The program approaches methamphetamine as a consumer-product marketing problem. In the Meth Project's quest to "un-sell" meth, it has created a prevention program that includes rigorous measurement, focus groups and research, state advisory boards, and statewide community outreach. Prior to the launch of an individual state's program, baseline research is completed to measure attitudes and behaviors towards meth, known as the *Meth Use & Attitudes Benchmark Survey*. Extensive focus groups are also conducted and follow-up surveys are utilized on a regular basis to test messaging content and measure changes in attitudes and behaviors, such as:

- Perceived risk of meth use
- Perceived benefit of meth use
- Frequency of parent-child discussions regarding meth's impact

The Meth Project also leverages national and state research, including criminal data, hospital admissions data, and workplace drug tests.

The research-based messaging campaign, which graphically portrays the ravages of meth use through television, radio, billboards, and Internet ads, has gained nationwide attention for its uncompromising approach and demonstrated impact. The program targets 12-17 year olds, with 18-24 year olds and parents as secondary audiences.

Meth Abuse Remains a Serious National Problem

More than 11.7 million Americans have used methamphetamine, a drug considered more addictive than heroin and the #1 drug-related crime problem in America. Meth use cuts through demographics, socioeconomic backgrounds and gender, breaking drug stereotypes.

And Meth's effect reaches far beyond individual users: the societal costs are staggering. According to the University of Illinois, Meth costs the Land of Lincoln more than $2 Billion per year in direct costs to criminal justice, health care, and social services systems alone. Nationally, Meth-related healthcare costs have also skyrocketed. Hospitals report an increase of Meth-related admissions in their emergency rooms over the past five years; further, they attribute more emergency room visits to Meth than to any other drug.

The impact of Meth addiction has placed a staggering burden on local social services agencies. A recent Pew study documents increases in child welfare placements in

California, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, and North Dakota due to Meth use. Alabama's Department of Human Resources recently reported that over a period from 2000 to 2005, there was a stunning 1,000% increase in children placed in foster care because of drug use by a parent or caregiver. Much of that increase was directly tied to Meth use.

New research shows that Meth is becoming increasingly popular among young adults. Teens report they perceive Meth as safer, longer lasting and easier to buy than cocaine. Law enforcement officials have caught teens as young as 10 and 11 years old using and selling the drug.

Meth abuse is still the number one law enforcement problem in rural America. The National Association of Counties' annual survey has proven this year after year.

Results That Have Been Validated

The Meth Project is a rigorous, well-defined, and research-based drug prevention program for reducing first-time Meth use. Its results in Montana have been more significant than any drug prevention program in history, and I believe we are on a path to see the same benefits in Idaho.

Two consecutive Montana *Youth Risk Behaviors Survey* data results funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrate that attitudes toward Meth have changed substantially since 2005. As recently as April 1, 2008, Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath released *Methamphetamine in Montana: A Follow-Up Report on Trends and Progress.* It revealed that employees in Montana testing positively for Meth fell 72% between 2005 and 2007, compared to a 44% drop nationally. It also found that lifetime teen Meth use in Montana has dropped 44.6% in that two-year span and Meth-related crimes also dropped 62%. In 2006, the Meth Project was cited by the White House as a model prevention program for the nation.

Public-Private Partnership Essential

There is tremendous interest in replicating the Meth Project. The project has been contacted by leaders in 38 states inquiring about how they can bring the Meth Project to their state.

To expand to other states reeling from Meth abuse, we need a strong public-private partnership to fund and support these efforts. The federal government needs to appropriate funds for a dedicated source strictly for Meth prevention. The U.S. Department of Justice's Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program offers a suitable funding vehicle, as authorized by Section 754 of Public Law 109-177.

On behalf of the citizens of Idaho, as well as the 38 state leaders who are reaching out to the Meth Project for an answer to devastating Meth abuse, I sincerely hope that Congress will respond to this challenge and appropriate Justice Department funds in Fiscal Year 2009 for meth prevention campaigns.

With the full support of Congress, we believe we can dramatically change behavior and significantly reduce Meth use. The Meth Project is working, and it saves lives.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. How are you measuring the effectiveness of the Meth Project?

Ms. OTTER. The Meth Project, one of the things that really attracted the Governor and I to this project to begin with is that it is research and databased. So we will go into schools statewide. We do a pre-survey, attitude and behavior survey. We will do the marketing campaign, the ad campaign. Then we go back in and revisit those.

We are up and running. We kicked off January 15th. What we have found in our first survey is that we rank, we mirrored Montana, you know, like-like demographics and everything. So it is survey, conversations, youth group, target groups, advisory boards, community outreach, all of those.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Is there any measurement of the actual use and decrease in use as a result of the project? That may not be possible to actually measure.

Ms. OTTER. Well, with students, you will find that the primary indicator that we go by because it is a prevention campaign, we go by the attitude and surveys when we go back and say how has this affected your perception of methamphetamine. Would you be more likely to tell your friend not to do this as a result of seeing these ads. Would you be more or less inclined to make this decision if you were at a party.

The other way that we are tracking it statewide in every state is differently. We are working with our Office of Drug Police Director, Debbie Fields, and we are tracking youth by age and that is with our State Police. So I imagine that looks a little bit different in every state. But that is how we are tracking that.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Your statistics are pretty dramatic. I certainly classify it as a meth crisis.

Ms. OTTER. It is.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We commend you for a very articulate presentation. I noted somewhere that you are a marathoner; is that right?

Ms. OTTER. Yes, I am. Three.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. You know, and that is one reason why we limited Mr. Simpson, but let me recognize the fact that what you are doing here is somewhat of a marathon——

Ms. OTTER. It is.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN [continuing]. In terms of trying to eliminate the scourge of meth amphetamine.

Ms. OTTER. Yes. Thank you.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We highly commend you for being here and for your involvement. And give our best to our former colleague.

Ms. OTTER. I will do that. Thank you for your time. Appreciate it.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you.

Next the Committee would like to welcome Mr. James P. Fox, the National District Attorney Association.

Mr. Fox, we welcome your presence here and your testimony on behalf of the Association.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER

WITNESS

JAMES P. FOX, NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

Mr. FOX. Thank you, Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen. My name is James Fox. I am the District Attorney of San Mateo County, California. I have been in that position for the past 25 years.

This year, I am honored to serve as the President of the National District Attorneys Association.

I am also joined today by the President elect of the National District Attorneys Association, Joe Cassilly, who is the State's Attorney for Harford County, Maryland.

I am here today to request inclusion in the 2009 fiscal year budget for funding for the National District Attorneys Association, specifically for the National Advocacy Center. This is a program that was conceived 16 years ago. The center was dedicated in June of 1998. It has operated with tremendous success.

It has been funded historically at the rate of $4.5 million. Unfortunately, in 2007, the funding was not included because it was considered an earmark. This is a joint program that is funded.

Department of Justice and the National District Attorneys Association have formed a partnership that has been incredibly successful. We have trained in excess of 20,000 prosecutors. It is called the National Advocacy Center.

But, unfortunately, what has occurred because of the reduction in funding is that it has become more of a regional center. It is located in Columbia, South Carolina, but we are no longer able to provide the resources to bring prosecutors to the center for the training.

This has had a significantly greater impact on the west coast because the majority of our members, we have over 7,000 members and the National DAs Association is the only national association representing local prosecutors. The majority of the offices are very, very small. They do not have the resources to provide the quality training that we have been able to provide over the years through the National Advocacy Center.

The program would provide their transportation with their daily living and with the training and for the teachers. That has been dramatically curtailed and it is adversely impacting the quality of prosecution in the United States.

I know that you often hear the impacts of 9/11 and they have been tremendous. They also have affected the prosecutors in this country as well, however, because the emphasis of the federal law enforcement has gone to terrorism rather than a lot of the crimes that have historically been prosecuted by the U.S. attorneys and investigated by the FBI. That has placed an increased burden on local prosecutors.

So we are all in this together. We are all trying to provide for public safety. And in order to do that, I would suggest that we do need to reestablish the partnership that has been so successful.

My written testimony does include a couple of testimonials from small county prosecutors who have benefitted. The National DAs Association also has the American prosecutor research arm which in addition to providing research on different issues such as science and law, they also provide some training.

And so our association, as I said, is the only one that provides these services for the state and local prosecutors. And we are urging the inclusion of $6.5 million for the National Advocacy Center to reestablish the quality training that we had been able to provide.

And I truly appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today and your willingness to listen to our testimony.

[Written testimony of James P. Fox, District Attorney San Mateo County, California.]

TESTIMONY

OF

HONORABLE JAMES P. FOX
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

AND

PRESIDENT
NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

BEFORE A HEARING OF THE

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
ON
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELTAED
AGENCIES

FUNDING FOR THE AMERICAN PROSECUTORS
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
AND
THE NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION'S
TRAINING PROGRAMS AT THE NATIONAL ADVOCACY
CENTER

FY2009 APPROPRIATIONS

APRIL 2, 2008

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and Members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies:

My name is James P. Fox and I am the elected district attorney in San Mateo County, California and have served in this capacity for approximately twenty-five years. I have been involved in the criminal justice system for forty-one years in a variety of positions including juvenile probation, deputy district attorney, criminal defense attorney and I was elected district attorney in 1982. I am a past President of the California District Attorneys Association and have been a chairman of the Legislative Committee of the California District Attorneys Association since 1990. I also currently serve as the President of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), whose programs I am here to speak on today. I am here to ask this committee to include NDAA's programs in the FY 2009 budget, specifically providing $6.5 million for NDAA's training programs at the Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center and other funding for the functions of the American Prosecutors Research Institute, NDAA's research and program development division.

NDAA is the largest and primary professional association of prosecuting attorneys in the United States. Formed in 1950 as the "National Association of County and Prosecuting Attorneys" and given its present name in 1959, NDAA has approximately 7,000 members, including most of the nation's local prosecutors, plus assistant prosecutors, investigators, victim witness advocates and paralegals. The National District Attorneys Association provides professional guidance and support to its members, serves as a resource and education center, follows public policy issues involving criminal justice and law enforcement, and produces a number of publications.

Prosecutors serve as gatekeepers of the criminal justice system and are the only persons charged with the ethical obligation to seek justice. Modern legislation, advances in technology, and the increasing complexity of crimes, compounded by increasing caseloads for state and local prosecutors have created a significant need for prosecutors to keep current on ever-changing issues facing the criminal justice community.

The Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center

Approximately 16 years ago, the Congress of the United States recognized the need for a state-of-the-art training facility for prosecutors at the federal, state and local levels. After appropriating 10 million dollars to study the feasibility of such a facility, Congress approved and funded the construction of the Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center (NAC), located on the campus of the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. Shortly thereafter, a partnership between the Department of Justice and the National District Attorneys Association, in conjunction with the National College of District Attorneys, was formed to provide federally funded training for prosecutors at all levels at no cost to prosecutors' offices.

NDAA's training programs at the National Advocacy Center provide state and local prosecutors with specialized knowledge and skills needed to effectively prosecute

difficult crimes such as child/elder abuse, identity theft, and domestic violence; to address quality of life issues in their communities such as gang-related activities; and to proficiently handle complex evidentiary issues such as the use of DNA.
The NAC exists to equip the nation's prosecutors with advocacy skills to effectively represent their communities and constituents in the courtroom in order to ensure community safety – free of charge.

NDAA training programs at the National Advocacy Center have provided valuable education to over 20,000 state and local prosecutors since the center's inception in 1998, and each year approximately 3,000 local prosecutors attend NDAA training programs at the center. The NAC is equipped with class and conference rooms, administrative areas, courtrooms, over 260 motel-style rooms, dining and recreational facilities, and state-of-the-art automation and video training capabilities.

Of special significance is the impact this training has had in small, rural jurisdictions, where budget constraints make it virtually impossible for prosecutors to receive any type of adequate and/or comprehensive training. The NAC had been able to provide this invaluable assistance to prosecutors from these small rural areas across the country, including Churchill County, Nevada (with a population of approximately 30,000 and five prosecutors), to Union County, Illinois (population approximately 18,000 people) as well as Polk County, Oregon (where the county budget is so small that mileage is not even covered!). Letters from prosecutors in these jurisdictions are attached as part of the written testimony being submitted today.

Historically NDAA's training programs at the NAC have been funded through the Appropriations Act for the Department of Justice, specifically through the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant program. The center has received at least $4.5 million annually since its inception, allowing it to operate at full capacity. In FY 2005, the NAC received $4.75 million through the Edward Byrne Memorial Grants program. In FY 2006, the NAC was provided $4.5 million through the Appropriations Act for the Department of Justice, specifically designating funding through the Project Safe Neighborhoods program.

In FY 2007, a year-long continuing resolution eliminated all earmarks and consequently the $4.5 million in funding for NDAA's training programs at the NAC. Instead, the continuing resolution provided that the funds for the Byrne JAG COPS program would be appropriated to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs to be distribute through a competitive grant process. NDAA received $2 million in funding from the State and Local Prosecutors National Training Program grant via this process, however the Association received no funding through the Byrne Discretionary Grants program.

During the appropriations process for FY 2008 Senator Lindsey Graham submitted to the Senate Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations subcommittee an appropriations request form for $6.5 million for the Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center. The Senate CJS spending bill contained $5 million for training at the National Advocacy Center, however the House CJS spending bill did not contain such language. Ultimately,

the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2008 was signed by the President without any funding for the National Advocacy Center

A greater than 50% reduction in federal funding for FY 2007 has forced the NAC to reduce the number of students trained; reduce the number of courses offered; and lay-off several employees at the facility and at NDAA headquarters in Alexandria, VA. Until last year, the Center provided an opportunity for assistant prosecutors who might otherwise be unable to receive training, to get the finest instruction at no cost to them or their office. Unfortunately, now students must pay for their airfare and do not receive a per diem to pay for dinner. In the near future it may be necessary to also charge students for the cost of lodging and two meals per day.

If students are required to pay all of their expenses, it will be devastating to prosecutors. The recent passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, drastically reduced Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (formula) by 67%. Dramatic decreases in funding for the NAC and the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants program will combine to ensure that assistants will not receive the training that both they and their communities deserve.

I am asking for you to include $6.5 million for the National District Attorneys Association training programs at the National Advocacy Center in your FY 2009 appropriations request. The National District Attorneys Association's training programs at the National Advocacy Center should be a Congressionally authorized program to alleviate the repeated end-of-year-fiscal crisis that NDAA experiences. Adequate funds must be appropriated for the training of state and local prosecutors at the NAC. State and local prosecutors handle approximately 95% of all criminal cases in America – funding is critical to the training of America's prosecutors and the safety of this nation.

NDAA training programs at the NAC have been highly regarded among the prosecutorial community. Prosecutor testimonials demonstrate the strong support for this invaluable institution. The following are two examples of countless prosecutor testimonials supporting NDAA training programs at the NAC:

"The Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center is the flagship of training programs for prosecutors in this country. I have had the privilege of serving as a faculty member on several occasions for several courses at the Center, and I can attest to both the excellent quality of the training, but also to the excellent facilities provided for that training. No other training facility in the country provides prosecutors the opportunity to learn in fully equipped courtrooms with state-of-the-art equipment. The availability of training programs without cost to the individual students or their respective offices ensures that quality training is available to assist in our efforts to achieve excellence in prosecution in our continuing struggle to make our communities safer, regardless of the size or location of the jurisdiction, and with regard to budget limitations under which all our nation's prosecutors operate." –Jerry M. Blain, State Attorney, 3rd Circuit, Live Oak, FL.

"The National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina, is 'the center' for training prosecutors across America. Being a career prosecutor, and having the benefit of seeing the Center from a student perspective, as well as having serviced as faculty and seeing what goes into the training there, it is critical to public safety across this nation that we continue to have this asset to train the people who prosecute 95% of the crime committed in America." –David Barber, District Attorney, 10th Judicial District, Birmingham, AL.

The American Prosecutors Research Institute

Another critical resource for prosecutors is NDAA's American Prosecutors Research Institute, NDAA's research and program development division. Originally founded as a separate non-profit organization, the American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI) today is an integral part of the National District Attorneys Association. APRI is committed to provide interdisciplinary responses to the complex problems facing the criminal justice system. It also is committed to supporting the highest professional standards among officials entrusted with the daunting responsibility for public safety. Today's prosecutors are expected to have a sophisticated understating of social violence, medical and scientific advances, media relations and community development. The institute has assembled programs and staff who meet these demands by providing expert research and guidance to prosecutors throughout the nation.

APRI also conducts regional trainings for prosecutors on specialized issues such as domestic violence, traffic crimes, community prosecution, identity theft, and DNA among others. APRI also works in close collaboration with the NAC, often holding national trainings at the center.

Conclusion

It is my hope that Congress will continue to recognize the importance of our state and local prosecutors through including funds for the NDAA in the FY 2009 budget. While I am aware of the financial issues plaguing this nation, I am also cognizant of the fact that the safety and security of our nation often rests in the hands of those on the front line, including our prosecutors. Since 9/11, not only have state and local prosecutors taken on what would have traditionally been classified as "federal" offenses (i.e. drugs and weapons possessions, white collar crimes, etc.) but have also actively become the first line responders to many potential security threats as well. In order to continue this pivotal role in protecting our citizens, our state and local prosecutors must be well equipped. By including funding for the NDAA in the FY09 budget, you will all be ensuring that those on the front lines will continue to receive the knowledge, skill and training to seek justice and protect society

Allen W. James
Union County State's Attorney

Union County Courthouse
309 W. Market St., Room 200
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Tel. (618) 8[illegible]216
Fax (618) 8[illegible]549

March 10, 2008

Mary M. Galvin, Dean
Education Division, NDAA
Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center
1620 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: Funding Status of Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center & National District Attorneys Association

Dear Ms. Galvin:

I am writing out of concern for the current and future funding of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) and more specifically its efforts at the Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center (NAC) in Columbia, South Carolina. As the State's Attorney for a very small and poor jurisdiction the training that I and my assistant have received at the NAC have been invaluable. Therefore, any reduction in funding and training directly affects our ability to prosecute crimes effectively.

I represent a small county in Illinois with a population of 18,000. Although we are small we suffer from the afflictions of many serious crimes such as homicides, methamphetamine, burglaries, domestic abuse, and numerous sex based crimes. The training offered by NDAA and the NAC has assisted us in the prosecution of each and every one of these crimes. My assistant and I are better prosecutors as a result of the training that we have received and I am sure that we have experienced a greater conviction rate as a result of our training. However, we could have never afforded the training we received without the assistance of NDAA in paying for the cost of the instruction, travel, and lodging. The budget for my office is barely enough to cover our basic supply needs each year and does not allow enough to cover the expenses of travel for one course let alone the additional costs of the course and lodging. Additionally, the NDAA is the only source available to us for the subject matter of the courses that are offered. Without the NDAA we would never have the opportunity to have training or the proper setting in many of the areas offered by the NAC. Finally, the quality of the staff conducting the training is second to none and can only be found in the courses that are offered at the NAC.

A perfect example of what I am referring to is a course conducted at the NAC on domestic abuse that was attended by my assistant. During that training he learned about the medical consequences and terminology of strangulation, and how a victim who has been strangled could be only seconds from death. It was suggested during that conference that if certain signs are visible an offender should be charged with attempted murder. He brought that information back to our jurisdiction and through training of our local police officers and medical personnel we have changed their vocabulary to use the word strangle as opposed to choking, they take up close pictures of the victims face, neck, and eyes, and from two of our most severe cases we have been able to charge the batterers with attempted murder. This is something that never would have happened if not for the training that was received at the NAC. In addition, you can see that by training this one person we were able to pass that information along to many law enforcement officers and medical personnel resulting in better prosecution and achieving justice for the victims. We have also been able to instruct the judges and change their thought processes and vocabulary on the subject as well.

I could relate similar stories from the other classes that we have attended. You have provided an invaluable service to us in the past and we truly hope and pray that you are able to continue to do so in the future.

Sincerely,

Allen W. James

THUR E. MALLORY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Fallon (775) 423-6561
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**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
OF CHURCHILL COUNTY**

March 7, 2008

Mary M. Galvin, Dean
Education Division NDAA
Earnest F. Holings National Advocacy Center
1620 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: National Advocacy Center

Dear Ms. Galvin

Our office is writing this letter to express our support of the educational program for prosecutors available at the National Advocacy Center. We are located in Churchill County Nevada, which is a rural area in Northern Nevada. Although it is located in Rural Nevada, approximately 30,000 people live in Churchill County. With this amount of people, we see very serious criminal activity. The criminal division of the Churchill County District Attorneys Office is comprised of five attorneys. All of our attorneys have taken advantage of the training opportunities at the National Advocacy Center.

The Center provides an invaluable service to our community. Given budget constraints, we are unable to sustain an extensive training budget. Our office is unable to pay for attorneys to travel outside the State for training. Further, the trainings that are typically offered in Reno and Las Vegas become cost prohibitive to the County when travel and per diem costs are factored in. Additionally, the quality of training that exists at the National Advocacy Center is unmatched. This is apparent through the interactive nature of the training and the small class sizes, which allows for individualized attention for the students.

The National Advocacy Center has provided our community with training for its prosecutors that can not be matched by other trainings that are currently offered. The Center provides a collegial type atmosphere, and the trainings have all been challenging and vigorous. The attorneys that attend trainings at the Center are not given a vacation, but rather an intense week that is dedicated to learning the art of prosecution. Unfortunately, given the budgetary constraints of our community, we would otherwise

be unable to attend such quality trainings if forced to pay the full cost of putting on the training.

It cannot be emphasized enough that the Center provides a service to prosecutors that cannot be otherwise matched or afforded by communities such as ours.

Sincerely,

Arthur E. Mallory
District Attorney
Churchill County

To: Mary M. Galvin, Dean
Education Division, NDAA
Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center
1620 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

From: Max Wall
Deputy District Attorney
Polk County, Oregon

Re: National Advocacy Center

Dear Ms. Galvin:

I'm writing to urge whomever is appropriate to fully fund the NAC. I was fortunate enough to be a member of the last Trial Advocacy I class to graduate before the budget cuts hit. It was an invaluable experience. I was able to hone my trial skills, and the in-depth, professional, and experienced training I received has helped me immeasurably in my job here in Polk County.

Polk County is a small county in western Oregon, and we rarely get training opportunities like the one provided at the NAC, much less an opportunity to be trained by the best in our field. The technology at the center and the helpful instructors helped to create a training experience which is impossible to find outside of the NAC. Being a small, rural county, our office does not have the budget to send us to the NAC, or anywhere else, for that matter, for training. The NAC paying for food and transportation, and providing lodging, is what made training possible for me. (Due to our budget, my county doesn't even pay mileage when we have to go to a training!) Without the funding to the NAC provide these things, I never would have been able to receive the training I did.

I feel very fortunate to have had the possibility to train as I did at the NAC, but am greatly disheartened to know of how substantially these budget cuts have affected their ability to provide this service. To put it simply: America needs Prosecutors who are competent and know how to do their job, in order for justice to be served. The NAC is the best prosecutor training environment I have ever been in, or that I could hope to be in. Not only did it help me reap the benefit of the years of experience of the faculty, it was a great emotional help to speak with other prosecutors from around the country, and learn that they face the same issues and difficulties.

I would love to attend more courses at the NAC, but unless it is fully funded and able to offer to pay the expenses to attend, there is no way I'll be able to go. Please let me know if there is anything else I can offer in support of this great opportunity. Thank you for the wonderful training I received; I hope that others can receive it too.

Very Truly Yours,
Max Wall
Deputy District Attorney
Polk County, Oregon

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Mr. Fox, for your testimony and for your advocacy of the National Advocacy Center. How is the center doing as we speak?

Mr. FOX. The center is functioning. We are basically limping along. We did receive some supplemental monies. We have dramatically curtailed it. We are not providing the transportation.

So as I said, it has been converted to a more regional training center, because the people who are closer are able to be able to provide. But Hawaii and the West Coast has been significantly impacted.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. When you say it has received some supplemental funding——

Mr. FOX. We had—yes.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well what does that mean?

Mr. FOX. One point eight million dollars I believe.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well when you say supplemental, what is supplemental funding.

Mr. FOX. Well, there was—there was some money that had been provided by way of a grant to American Prosecutor Research Institute. The Justice Department allowed us to transfer that money to the Advocacy Center.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Was that 2007 money you are talking about?

Mr. FOX. That was 2007 money that we are still trying to exist on. Yes.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Okay.

Mr. FOX. Because there was no money included in the 2008.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Yeah, 2007. We were operating on a CR.

Mr. FOX. And we were not included as an earmark.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. But neither is anybody else.

Mr. FOX. No. I under——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Okay. But do you understand that we have created a competitive account. I would suggest that you explore the possibility of applying for a grant out of the Byrne Competitive Grant, which is a $16 million account set up for like activity. I would think an application would certainly be entertained by the Justice Department.

Mr. FOX. I am aware of the $16 million that is available. We are going to be applying for that. However, we are one of numerous entities. And historically we had been operating with $4.5 billion. I don't anticipate that we are going to be able to provide——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Four point five?

Mr. FOX. Million, I am sorry.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. No, that is all right.

Mr. FOX. I am so used to seeing other people coming up and asking for billions. I am just asking for millions.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Yes.

Mr. FOX. We will be applying for that. But of course also the Byrne/JAG funds have been dramatically reduced also. And——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Yes, they have. But you have a $16 million account out of which to apply for that grant. Do you understand that?

Mr. FOX. I do understand that. However, we are certainly not the only applicants wanting for funding. We understand that.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well I know. But you want $6 million, right, 6.5?

Mr. FOX. We want 6.5.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. There is $16 million there.

Mr. FOX. Well.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Go after it.

Mr. FOX. Could we get a letter of endorsement?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. That wouldn't be competitive. That would be unfair. You are a group with a really good reputation for performance and are meeting an obvious need. And so I would encourage you to apply. And we certainly will be looking at how the Justice Department spends these funds.

Mr. FOX. Right.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. We will watch how this process unfolds.

Mr. FOX. Right.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. So your answer to me is——

Mr. FOX. We do plan to submit an application for that funding. However, we are also asking for an appropriation in the 2009 budget.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. I understand. Okay. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thanks for your testimony from the District Attorneys Association. I assume the fellow in the back who is nodding is your successor; is that right?

Mr. FOX. No. Actually——

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Where is he?

Mr. FOX [continuing]. My successor is seated right over there.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Yes. Is that right?

Mr. FOX. The fellow in the back——

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. He keeps nodding.

Mr. FOX [continuing]. He is the Executive Director of the American Prosecutor Research Institute.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you both for—all of you. Thank you.

Mr. FOX. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Ruppersberger.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Yes. I would like to acknowledge Joe Cassilly (phonetic), Harford County, Maryland, one of the counties that I represent. How long have you been a prosecutor there now?

Mr. FOX. Thirty years.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Thirty years. So I think you have a lot of experience. And he doesn't have to be elected, so I assume you are being held accountable and do a good job. Thank you for your testimony.

I agree with the issue that you raise about the fact that so much money is going into combating terrorism. I am on the Intelligence Committee. To me probably the most serious crime that we have to deal with is drugs, and First Lady Otter's testimony was right on——

Mr. FOX. Absolutely.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER [continuing]. Drugs impact the world. Afghanistan has more poppy then ever before. I mean, we are working with Columbia, and yet it seems that a lot of moneys that were going into resources at DEA, and for prosecutors to buy drugs is just drying up. And it is something that we really have to refocus on, because it is impacting the lives of Americans every day.

I mean, we had to wake up when it came to terrorism the realization that it is to the point now that unfortunately the drug car-

tels and the terrorists are now coming together which makes it even worse.

So I think you raise a relevant—really relevant issue. And I would hope that your organization would refocus on drugs.

I was a prosecutor for ten years. I did investigative prosecutions, wiretaps. You know, all those international drug rings. And I was a member of the National District Attorneys Association. And I was a lecturer also.

And I know—I think that a lot of the urban areas, whether it is in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Baltimore, Washington, whatever, the states attorney's offices there are pretty large. And they have their own training programs.

Mr. FOX. Right.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. But the groups that I see that can suffer are in the more rural areas.

Mr. FOX. Exactly.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. And they don't have a budget to be able to fly to these places where they can have these seminars.

And just as you have in medicine or any other profession, you need to be trained. An example is the sophistication of wiretaps, which are used to really identify organized crime or drug organization and things like that.

So I understand where you are coming from. The Chairman gave you good advice. You know, you try for everything you can.

Mr. FOX. Absolutely.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. And hopefully—I don't know very many organizations that get everything they want.

Mr. FOX. Right.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Especially with all the problems we have with the war costing us 10 to 12 billion a month and all those issues. So it is all about priorities.

But I will personally look after this. And try to encourage this Committee to look into it. But I assume you are not going to get the 6 million, so I just want to say that right now.

Mr. FOX. Well, thank you. I really appreciate your comments.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Okay. Thank you very much for your testimony, sir.

Mr. FOX. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And next the Committee would like to welcome Ms. Leanne Mazer, who will testify on behalf of the National Association of Development Organizations.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

DOC

WITNESS

LEANNE MAZER, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. MAZER. Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and members of the Subcommittee, my name is Leanne Mazer. I currently serve as President of the National Association of Development Organizations and as Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for West-

ern Maryland located in Cumberland. And we are also an EDA designated economic development district.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in regards to the Economic Development Administration. I would like to focus my remarks on the pressing need to restore EDA's program funding levels closer to that of fiscal year 2000 and 2001. And those levels were over $400 million.

NADO feels that there are three core reasons Congress should provide EDA with increased investment resources in the upcoming fiscal year.

First, EDA has the program tools and funding flexibility needed to support regional and local economic development efforts in a timely, efficient, and cost effective manner.

Since its inception, EDA has helped create over four million jobs and leveraged in excess of $130 billion in private sector investments in more than 8,000 different communities.

If enacted, the Administration's fiscal year 2009 proposed cut of $147 million could potentially result in the loss or delay of $3.8 billion in new private sector investments and the loss of more than 36,000 jobs in distressed areas.

If funding was restored to the fiscal year 2001 level, and based on the agency's performance in recent years, EDA could leverage more than $11 billion in private investment and spur the creation and retention of more than 109,000 quality jobs.

Second, Mr. Chairman, the EDA Planning Program should be maintained at no less than its current level of $27 million. This proven program provides essential seed capital and matching funds for the national network of 340 economic development districts and other planning partners to foster regional cooperation and implement projects at the local level.

Without the assistance and expertise of economic development districts, also known as planning and development commissions, most of our local communities would not be able to package infrastructure and development deals.

Third, Mr. Chairman, inadequate public infrastructure remains one of the most significant roadblocks to economic development in small town and rural America.

EDA and its local partners are investing in the public infrastructure and facilities that are needed to support the private sector. Without public services such as water and sewer, access roads, rail spurs, or industrial parks, private industry will relocate to places with these amenities. Whether it is somewhere else here in the United States or even more frequently abroad.

At a time when nearly every American business and community is confronting intense competition from abroad, the federal government should be expanding not cutting resources and investments for critical public works and infrastructure systems.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as an economic development practitioner operating at the grassroots, I know from firsthand experience the positive and transformative impact EDA has on our distressed and isolated communities.

In my region, we have tapped into EDA resources for a number of successful projects. Recently EDA invested a million dollars as part of a $7 million infrastructure expansion effort to support a

new American Woodmark facility. The project has already helped to generate 120 new jobs at the plant and with the potential of an additional 380 in the next few years.

Considering that tourism is a significant component of our rural economy, EDA also invested $2 million as part of a $7.5 million infrastructure project to support a new Adventure Sports Center. The focus of which is a state-of-the-art, white water rapids course and amphitheater.

When completed, the overall development will include a mountaintop village, consisting of a hotel, performing arts center, and a 450-home subdivision. It is a vital project that is expected to generate 1,900 jobs, $123 million in new spending, and attract additional business sector development and knowledge economy workers to our rural region.

These are only two of EDA's many success stories. NADO looks forward to working with Congress and the Administration to ensure the continued success of the agency.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee. And I would welcome any questions.

[Written testimony of Leanne Mazer, President, National Association of Development Organizations.]

WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

LEANNE MAZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR WESTERN MARYLAND

AND

PRESIDENT OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

BEFORE THE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 2, 2008

Thank you, Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and members of the subcommittee, for the opportunity to testify today concerning the FY2009 budget for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce.

I will focus my statement on the pressing need to restore EDA's program budget closer to the FY2000-2001 levels of more than $400 million, especially for the public works account. As the only federal agency focused exclusively on private sector job growth in distressed areas, EDA serves as an essential partner and funding resource for local communities striving to address the fundamental building blocks needed to compete in today's highly competitive global economy.

My name is Leanne Mazer. I am the Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, headquartered in Cumberland. I also currently serve as President of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). My background includes nearly two decades in regional and local economic development, including seven years in my current position.

The **National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)** provides advocacy, education, research and training for the national network of 520 regional development organizations, including the 340 multi-county Economic Development Districts (EDDs) designated and funded by EDA.

The **Tri-County Council for Western Maryland** is a regional economic development agency serving Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties. The organization serves as a regional planning and development organization under the guidelines of both the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and EDA. In addition to our professional and technical assistance programs for local governments, businesses and non-profit entities, our organization operates several small business development loan funds, serves as the state data center affiliate for Western Maryland and offers Geographic Information System (GIS) services for our local communities and partners.

On behalf of NADO's members across the nation, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and the members of the subcommittee for your steadfast support of EDA and its local partners over the years. We understand the difficult task of addressing the diverse portfolio of worthy agency and program needs covered by this subcommittee. Therefore, we are even more appreciative of the subcommittee's efforts to increase EDA funding last year.

The members of NADO strongly support restoring EDA's budget closer to the historic levels of FY2000-2001, especially for the public accounts account, as part of the FY2009 Commerce appropriations bill. At a time when millions of hard working Americans and countless communities are struggling to adjust to the rapidly evolving global economy and downward shifts in our marketplace, our nation must reinvest in the fundamental building blocks necessary for our nation to remain competitive.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, there are three core reasons why Congress should support increased investments in EDA programs in the upcoming fiscal year. First, EDA has the program tools and funding flexibility needed to support regional and local economic development efforts in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner. This is especially important during these uncertain and turbulent economic times. *The primary challenges facing the agency and its local partners are not statutory, programmatic or operational restrictions, but simply budgetary.*

If enacted, the administration's FY2009 program request of only $100 million will have a devastating impact on our local communities' ability to pursue new job creation and economic development initiatives. Even at the current funding level of $282 million, EDA's six regional offices and field staff are already inundated with funding requests for high-quality and much needed projects that the agency cannot fund.

In recent months, NADO conducted a brief informal survey of its members to determine the backlog of potential "ready to go" EDA public works projects. We found there are more than 115 projects, valued at close to $400 million in public investment, already in the agency's funding queue but waiting for final clearance and funding before they can be processed and started. Just this small sample of projects is estimated to attract more than $7.2 billion in new private sector investments and result in the retention and creation of more than 47,000 jobs.

These pending projects cover essential community assets for economic development, such as water and sewer systems for technology, industrial and business parks, intermodal transportation facilities, job training facilities, business incubators, broadband networks and development finance loan funds for entrepreneurs and businesses. They span across the nation in states such as Alabama, California, Iowa, Kentucky, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and West Virginia.

Mr. Chairman, you are most likely aware of the Polymer Alliance Zone (PAZ) project in West Virginia. In the mid-1990s, PAZ was established in your state's Mid-Ohio Valley as a collaboration between public and private sector leaders, as well as educational and labor sectors, to enhance the area's existing polymer industry. PAZ is seeking and waiting on $625,000 in EDA assistance, which will be matched 50 percent with local dollars and leveraged with another $13 million in private investment, to build the public infrastructure needed to support the 300,000 square foot Polymer Technology Park. This industrial development park, which will house two companies involved in the demanufacturing of electronic products, is expected to generate 117 jobs in this distressed region.

Similarly, local leaders in Essex County, New Jersey are awaiting final word on a $1.5 million EDA application to support more than $20 million in private funding for the construction of a mixed-used technology building as part of the University Heights Science Park. This project is part of a unique collaborative venture between Newark's higher education institutions, the City of Newark and private industry that is designed to harness university science and technology research as a force for urban and regional economic and community development.

Upon completion, the University Heights Science Park will include one million square feet of technology laboratories and offices, 75,000 square feet of technology incubator space, up to 20,000 square feet of ancillary support retail, an 800-student technology high school, two blocks of new and rehabilitated housing and a day care center. This mixed-use science and technology park is expected to generate over 6,000 permanent jobs in this highly distressed area.

By investing in projects like the Polymer Alliance Zone and the University Heights Science Park, EDA has amassed an inspiring record over the years in assisting regions and local communities struggling to overcome both long-term economic poverty and sudden and severe hardships. According to EDA's testimony before this subcommittee last month, EDA investments in FY2007 alone are expected "to create 52,124 jobs at an average cost of $4,000 per job" and "every dollar in taxpayer money attracts $26 in private capital investment."

These impressive results are among the reasons EDA, even with a very modest budget by federal standards, has repeatedly earned high performance rankings from the Office of Management and Budget, independent university evaluations and local economic developers. Yet, the agency is still facing a 53 percent funding cut from the current fiscal year (and nearly 70 percent below the FY2001 level of $439.87 million) and the virtual elimination of its effective and proven public works program.

Using EDA's job creation and leveraging ratio figures, the proposed cut of $147 million could potentially result in the loss or delay of $3.82 billion in new private sector investments and the loss of more than 36,000 jobs in distressed areas. In theory, EDA could potentially help leverage and attract more than $11 billion in private investments and spur the creation or retention of more than 109,000 quality jobs if Congress restored its program budget to its FY2001 level, based on the agency's performance in recent fiscal years.

The numbers above provide a stark reminder of how vital and influential EDA's resources are in stimulating job growth in distressed communities and that even a relatively minor change in funding can make the difference in generating thousands of jobs and attracting hundreds of millions of dollars in new private investment. This is because EDA funds serve as an important catalyst for change, whether it is a feasibility study at the front-end of a project, gap financing that completes a larger funding package or the basic infrastructure that private industry expects local communities to provide.

Second, Mr. Chairman, EDA has the local networks necessary, especially through the system of economic development districts, to identify, prioritize and invest in high-quality projects aimed at generating and retaining private sector jobs in areas suffering from chronic distress as well as more sudden and severe economic dislocations.

Since EDA projects must arise through a comprehensive regional strategy process and be matched by local funds, they have proven to be highly successful. As stated previously, this results in EDA projects being completed on time, leveraging an impressive ratio of private sector investment and creating new jobs at minimal tax-payer expense.

As demonstrated in a thorough program evaluation by the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University, the national network of 340 multi-county EDDs are effective at developing and coordinating local plans, implementing specific projects and initiatives, and providing professional expertise and capacity to distressed and underserved communities.

The Wayne State study concludes that EDDs have used the nearly $27 million in annual EDA planning funds to establish an impressive record of facilitating and leading a regional strategic planning process that "provides the critical backbone for economic development planning at the regional level.... EDD activities are both effective and essential to local development." The report further states that "EDDs very effectively use the EDA funding they receive. They have a strong ability to use that funding to leverage funding from other sources to pursue development activities."

In my region, we have tapped into EDA funds for a number of successful projects in recent years. EDA invested $1 million as part of a $7 million infrastructure expansion effort to support a new American Woodmark facility. This project has helped generate 120 new jobs at the plant, with the potential of an additional 380 quality jobs in the next few years.

With tourism as a major part of our region's economy, EDA also invested $2 million as part of a $7.5 million infrastructure project to support a new adventure sports center. The focal point of the project is a state-of-the-art, stand-alone whitewater course and amphitheater. When the project is finished, it will also include a mountain-top village consisting of a hotel, performing arts center and a major subdivision of 450 homes. This is a vital "quality of place" project that is needed to attract additional business sector development and knowledge-economy workers to our rural region.

As outlined above, a key to our EDD's success is the critical support from EDA, both the planning and project dollars that help us work with our local partners to implement our regional strategy. We can have the best regional planning initiatives in the world, but our communities must still have access to matching funds for project implementation. The bottom line remains that declining resources for EDA's core programs—especially public works—translates into fewer jobs created and fewer private sector dollars invested in our nation's distressed and underserved communities.

Third and finally, Mr. Chairman, inadequate public infrastructure remains among the most significant road blocks to economic development in small town and rural America. Without new EDA resources, our local governments will fall further behind in dealing with aging public infrastructure, meeting the intensifying demands of business and industry, and overcoming the recent cost spikes in construction materials and project costs.

It is also essential to point out that EDA and its local government partners are investing in the public infrastructure and facilities that are not only needed to support the private sector, but also required by businesses and industries to operate and succeed. Without public services such as water and sewer, access roads, rail spurs or industrial parks, private industry will locate or relocate to places with these amenities, whether somewhere else in the United States or, even more frequently, abroad.

As reported by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the nation's infrastructure remains in serious need of improvements and increased public investment. Improvement costs alone in the next several years are calculated in the trillions. Our ability to sustain the nation's infrastructure is directly linked to the United States' ability to maintain and grow a world-class economy.

In inflation-adjusted dollar terms, according to the Congressional Budget Office, annual public spending on infrastructure has steadily risen from $105 billion in 1956 to just over $312 billion in 2004. Of this total amount, the federal government spends approximately $75 billion a year on infrastructure investments, with EDA playing a targeted role in linking job creation and infrastructure improvements.

Although federal spending has averaged an annual rate increase of 1.7 percent in dollar terms, as a share of total non-defense federal expenditures the federal contribution has declined. Between 1956 and 1966, *Building America's Futures* reports, infrastructure spending was approximately ten percent of non-defense discretionary spending, peaking at 11.2 percent in 1960. Since that time, this figure has steadily declined. Over the last twenty years, federal spending on infrastructure averaged 3.5 to four percent.

America is falling dangerously behind our global competitors in the level of investments made in critical infrastructure, as cited recently in *The Economist*. For example, China is spending nine percent of its annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on infrastructure investments—many times above what America currently spends (0.57 percent) as a portion of our total economy. China has built nearly 52,000

kilometers of new roads in its rural areas since the 1990s. They are now planning to construct over 300,000 kilometers of new roads by 2010, 97 new airports by 2020 and, this year alone, add 66 gigawatts of electric capacity, which is more than the United Kingdom uses annually.

China is not the only country investing heavily in its infrastructure to gain a competitive advantage in the world market place. Countries in the European Union are redoubling their efforts, and India is expected to expend five percent of its GDP on infrastructure improvements, including the development of an end-to-end national transportation network. Together, the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa are spending an average of 4.7 percent of the continent's total GDP annually on infrastructure investments.

At a time when nearly every American business and community is confronting intense competition from emerging and less developed nations, the federal government should be xpanding, not cutting, resources and investments for critical public works and infrastructure systems. EDA is the only federal agency with the mission of linking strategic planning and infrastructure investment with regional economic development initiatives to ensure communities grow sustainable jobs. It is also an agency that invests at the grassroots level, yet helps local communities improve connections to the national and global economies.

Throughout its history, EDA has been recognized as a national leader and innovator in the economic development field. Many cutting-edge practices have emerged from the agency's public works and economic adjustment assistance programs, such as business incubator buildings, smart technology parks, eco-industrial parks and the redevelopment of brownfields. Without the financial and technical support of EDA and its local partners, the most distressed communities in small metropolitan and rural America would never have the opportunity to implement these innovative projects.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the members of NADO want to express our concern with the comments of a senior EDA official before the subcommittee last month. The agency's leadership contends that if the public works program "fell of the face of the earth tomorrow but all the money went into Economic Adjustment, EDA could still do everything we do today." Perhaps the statement may be technically true. In the context of the administration's budget, however, public works is identified as the lowest priority at only $7 million. Public works is too important to be left up to the agency's own discretion. It should remain clearly stated as a high-priority program by Congress as part of the Commerce-Justice-Science spending bill. This is the only way that Congress can ensure that its intent is faithfully executed.

EDA's current portfolio of public works, economic adjustment, technical assistance and research and evaluation programs each fulfill an individual and specific need and exist so that communities may apply for assistance tailored to unique needs. Each program function is provided with a dedicated funding stream that is developed with the consent and review of Congress and each is designed to fulfill distinct needs and purposes. *Again, the primary challenges facing the agency and its local partners are not statutory, programmatic or operational restrictions, but simply budgetary. The agency needs more resources to help our local communities pursue new economic development opportunities.*

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and members of the subcommittee for the opportunity to appear today. The members and leadership of NADO look forward to working with you and the administration to ensure EDA continues to fulfill its critical mission of stimulating private sector job creation in distressed and underserved areas. I welcome any questions.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. So how is the American Woodmark project going?

Ms. MAZER. Very well. It is related to the economy as well. The growth has slowed down just a little bit. But they fully expect it to pick back up. And actually we had a spinoff from that. American Woodmark Company has also made a commitment to locate a—the Cumberland plant is actually a finished product plant. They have made a commitment to locate a plant in Garrett County in a new industrial park.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Good for you.

Ms. MAZER. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And what about the amphitheater project, the housing project, where is that?

Ms. MAZER. Geographically?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Geographically.

Ms. MAZER. In Garrett County, our western most county.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Yes. I know it well. Just where it is.

Ms. MAZER. McHenry at the Wisp.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Wisp?

Ms. MAZER. It is part of the Wisp development as well.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Okay.

Ms. MAZER. Yes. It is right on the very top of the mountain at the Wisp.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And what did EDA do to participate in that project?

Ms. MAZER. Again, it has $2 million. And it was part of the white water course itself, the white water development. The private sector was very heavily involved with the private sector actually donated the land that the course is—it actually—it has got an interesting history.

The idea came about through the planning process but based on the fact that the Olympic trials were on the Savage River back in the late 80s. And this was the way to control the conditions.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Good for you. Thank you for your testimony. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you.

Ms. MAZER. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you very much.

Ms. MAZER. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Next the Committee would like to welcome Mr. Philip W. Glover who will be testifying on behalf of the Council of Prison Locals, AFGE. Mr. Glover, welcome to the hearing today.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

BUREAU OF PRISONS

WITNESS

PHILIP W. GLOVER, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, COUNCIL OF PRISON LOCALS

Mr. GLOVER. Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and Subcommittee members, my name is Phil Glover. And I am the National Legislative Director for the Council of Prison Locals, American Federation of Government Employees. We rep-

resent 28,000 bargaining unit employees in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, United States Department of Justice.

I want to thank this Subcommittee for inviting us to present the viewpoint of the men and women working behind the fences and walls in secure facilities throughout the United States. In attendance with us today is also our Council President, Bryan Lowry, and members of three of our local unions from Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Although two of them had to go for meetings with Senator Byrd.

Our union represents all line employees regardless of job specialty, all of whom are considered federal law enforcement officers. All staff receive basic correctional training and our yearly refresher training. All staff receive firearms training and self defense training. They are good at their jobs. And simply want to be supported by the President and the Congress that they are not put at unacceptable risk when reporting for duty each day.

What is understood at this hearing is about the fiscal year 2009 funding. I want to briefly mention the fiscal year 2008 situation and its challenges. As you know, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 cut federal prison funding by $121 million below the House proposal and mark. It cut $101 million below the President's request.

Prior to this we knew that the President's request for 2008 was inadequate to properly fund a safe and secure prison system. The BOP for fiscal year 2008 is actually in a shortfall of $433 million in its salaries and expense account.

We want to thank the Committee for its recent action, approving a reprogramming of $109 million for Department of Justice. While this is a start, we remain concerned about losing any more line staff at our facilities.

As it stands now, BOP may still have to look at either furloughs or layoffs of line employees to meet the funding requirements of fiscal year 2008. We have already eliminated 2,300 positions between fiscal year 2005 and 2007. We consolidated functions in inmate systems and human resources. We shut down four federal prison camps. We have cut travel, training, and equipment purchases.

Over 70 percent of the salary and expense operational budgets at our institutions go to staff and costs. Currently we have 39,383 authorized positions as of January 2008. Actually filled positions are 34,098 as of January 2008. This is a staffing percentage of 86.6 percent. In the late 90s, our staffing level averages at most institutions were between 95 to 96 percent staffing. In fact, the inmate population since the early 1990s has increased nearly 250 percent, while approximately—the staffing has approximately increased 125 percent.

Large states have inmate-to-staff ratios of one staff member to 3.3 inmates. The BOP's ratio currently is one staff member to 4.92 inmates. Should the Congress and the Department of Justice not be able to agree on additional reprogramming, our staffing level percentages may decrease to as low as 76 percent.

We also believe the OMB-approved request of $240 million in reprogramming is not sufficient to keep the Bureau funded through the end of fiscal year 2008. Each year, and this year is not looking any different, we end up being placed under a continuing resolution

at current funding levels. This has created a situation where we have operated in the last fiscal years under budget through the remainder of the first part of the fiscal year.

We are asking that in any continuing resolution that next year's numbers be authorized for the Bureau of Prisons. We all have gone through some of the reasons for the funding shortage. Medical care for inmates went up about $45 million, agency contributions to the law enforcement officer for his retirement was $21 million, 2007 base adjustment gap of $60 million, and the utility cost increases of 35 million, and the pay raise adjustment of 14 million were all taken out of appropriated staff funding dollars.

And currently they are taking correctional posts and filling them with non-correctional officers. And they are pulling phone monitors, control officers, and compound officers to cover housing unit posts. They are all qualified correctional staff. However, they don't work daily in housing units, a lot of these non-corrections people.

The President's—well, I will go back. Inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff assault levels have risen over the years to what the union believes are unacceptable levels. The Director testified to that recently. We are hopeful additional resources will be brought to bear in these institutions where assaults are up.

We should not wait until a correctional worker is carried out of a prison as has happened 23 times in the past. So far this year there have been 13 homicides inmate on inmate. Last year there were 12 homicides for the total fiscal year.

The President's fiscal year 2009 request of 5.4 billion in salaries and expense funding and 95 million in building and facilities funding is once again not keeping up with reality in federal prisons.

It is expected we will see about the same number of new inmates into the system next year. There are over 100 federal prisons. And how can an average of less than $1 million in BNF accounts per prison keep them running safely?

As has been pointed out by both the Director and now the union, staffing levels are not rising as fast as the inmate population. And assault rates are up. While $385 million in increase in fiscal year 2009 funding for salaries and expense account is better than last year, it does not take into account increases in medical, overtime, pay, health insurance, retirement, and other staff costs.

We respectfully request a full $500 million above the President's salary and expense request. And a full $400 million for the buildings and facilities account. And you have received a "dear colleague" letter I believe signed by 16 members asking for those amounts.

Our union is strongly concerned about Section 827 of last year's Department of Defense Authorization Act of 2008, a provision that significantly changes the federal work prison industries program. FPI is a program that produces goods and services for the federal government, some under what is called mandatory source and some under competitive procedures. This program was created in 1934 by Congress to help control prison inmates and work assignments.

The Section 827 changes to the FPI program may eliminate up to 6,500 inmate positions and cut 500 more correctional staffing positions. The FPI sales pay the inmates. And they also pay the staff and benefits for those staff. If BOP were to create a program simi-

lar to it, it would cost about 800 million in salaries and expense funding.

We urge you and your colleagues to look at the Section 827 changes and modify them or create other opportunities for inmate work.

Our union is also concerned about the trend to privatize federal prison work. We believe the Committee was on the right track last year when they eliminated funding for A76 processes. We are hopeful this will pass the Committee again this year.

We also would like you to look at some of these prison contracts. In Youngstown, Ohio, for instance, a private company received a $100,000 bonus after four months of operation for keeping the prison without violence. Federal employees would like the same opportunity to get $100,000 we could split amongst the staff if we keep the place from not going violent.

It is imperative that prison construction start to keep up with the population increases. We should be updating technology in current prisons, adding new computers, work stations, radios. We would like to see less than lethal weapons authorized. This should be a priority of the President and Congress to fully fund the law enforcement agency charged with keeping communities safe.

During the time when law enforcement agencies have seen huge increases, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has suffered stagnating budgets. Prisons should be seen as part of the law enforcement system. As a government—as the government apprehends and convicts more individuals of crimes, federal prisons should be built and staffed appropriately.

It is projected in fiscal year 2008 that we will receive 7,400 net new inmates into the system. We will only put one medium security prison with 1,500 beds on line in fiscal year 2008. And that was testified by the Director as slowly.

The additional inmates will go into gymnasiums, TV rooms, hallways, and triple and quadruple bunking. And we will end up putting inmates everywhere.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we are asking for your help. Our staffing is low, our assaults are up, and inmates continue to flood into the system. We hope you will recognize this and do all you can to increase our staffing levels. And I know you have already started to do that on the Committee. Thank you.

[Written testimony of Philip W. Glover, Legislative Director, Council of Prison Locals, AFGE–AFL–CIO.]

STATEMENT OF

PHILIP W. GLOVER
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

COUNCIL OF PRISON LOCALS, AFGE, AFL-CIO

BEFORE THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES

APRIL 2, 2008

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and subcommittee members. My name is Phil Glover, and I am the National Legislative Director for the Council of Prison Locals, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, which represents the 28,000 bargaining unit employees in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice. I want to thank the subcommittee for inviting us to present the viewpoint of the men and women working behind the fences and walls in secure facilities throughout the United States.

Our union represents correctional officers, unit management staff, food service staff, warehouse staff, inmate systems staff, Federal Prison Industries staff, education and recreation staff, health services staff, business office staff - all of whom are considered federal law enforcement officers. All staff receive basic correctional training and yearly refresher training. All staff receive firearms training and self-defense training. They are good at their jobs and simply want to be supported by the President and the Congress so they are not put at unacceptable risk when reporting for duty each day.

FY 2008 and Its Challenges

While it is understood this hearing is about FY 2009 funding, I want to briefly mention FY 2008 and its challenges. As you know, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 cut federal prison funding by 121 million below the House's proposal and 101 million below the President's request. Prior to this, we knew that the President's request for 2008 was inadequate to properly fund a safe and secure prison system. The BOP for FY 2008 is actually in a shortfall of 433 million dollars in its Salaries and Expenses account. We want to thank the committee for its recent action approving a reprogramming of 109 million dollars from DOJ. While this is a start, we remain concerned about losing any more line staff at our facilities. As it stands now, BOP may still have to look at either furloughs or lay offs of line employees to meet the funding

requirements of 2008. We have already eliminated 2,300 positions between 2005 and 2007. We consolidated functions in Inmate Systems and Human Resources, we shut down four (4) federal prison camps, we cut travel, training, and equipment purchases. We have slowed the opening of new prisons and have not built prison's to keep up with the increases of the inmate population.

Over seventy percent of the Salaries and Expense (operational) budgets at our institutions go to staffing costs. Currently, we have 39,383 authorized positions in the BOP. Actually filled positions are 34,098 as of January 2008. This is a staffing percentage of 86.6 percent. In the late 1990's our staffing level averages at most institutions were 95 to 96 percent. It is obvious we have not kept pace with the inmate population. In fact, the inmate population since the early 1990s has increased nearly 250 percent, while staffing only increased by approximately 125 percent. While large states have inmate to staff ratio's at 1 inmate to 3.3 staff, the BOP's ratio is 1 inmate to 4.92 staff.

Should the Congress and the Department of Justice not be able to agree on additional reprogramming, our staffing level percentages may decrease to as low as 76 percent staffing on average at each federal prison. We also believe the OMB-approved request of 240 million dollars in reprogramming is not sufficient to keep the Bureau funded through the end of FY 2008. Each year, and this year is not looking any different, we have been placed under a continuing resolution at the end of the fiscal year. This has created a situation where we have to operate at the last fiscal years level of funding well into the new year. If this occurs again, the Congress must move our funding up in any continuing resolution to the next fiscal year's requested amount.

Some of the reasons for the FY 2008 shortfall are as follows. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161) provided for $5,050,440,000 for BOP operational expenses (S&E) which was only $55 million above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level of $4,995,433,000. This $55 million increase was $101 million below President Bush's FY 2008 requested increase of $156 million, $121 million below the House's FY 2008 recommended increase of $176 million, and 101 million below the Senate's FY 2008 recommended increase. Other reasons for the FY 2008 shortfall were increases in inmate medical care ($45 million), agency contributions to LEO FERS retirement ($21 million), 2007 base adjustment gap ($60 million), utility cost increase ($35 million), and a pay raise adjustment ($14 million). These additional amounts were taken out of staffing our prisons and should be taken into account in any new appropriations bill.

The effect of the shortfall will again force the BOP to cut additional positions, overtime, purchasing of equipment, vehicles, and training. The BOP has already begun filling housing unit correctional posts with non-correctional officers (phone monitors, tool control officers, compound officers and others) to avoid the payment of overtime.

Inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff assault levels have risen over the years to what the union believes are unacceptable levels. We are hopeful additional resources will

be brought to bear in those institutions where assaults are up. We should not wait until a correctional worker is carried out of a prison as has happened twenty three times in the past. So far this year there have been 13 homicides (inmate on inmate). Last year, there were 12 homicides (inmate on inmate) total.

FY 2009

The President's fiscal year 2009 request of $5,435,754,000 in Salaries and Expense funding and $95,907,000 in Buildings and Facilities funding is once again not keeping up with reality in federal prisons. It is expected we will see about the same number of new inmates into the system next year. This budget request first doesn't take into account the bed space needs of additional inmates to lower overcrowding and doesn't recognize that 36 of our federal prisons are 50 years of age and older. There are over 100 federal prisons. How can an average of less than $1,000,000 per prison keep them running safely? As has been pointed out by both the Director and now the union, staffing levels are not rising as fast as the inmate population and assault rates are up. While 385 million dollars increase in FY 2009 funding for the Salaries and Expenses account is better than last year, it does not take into account increases in medical, overtime, pay, health insurance, retirement, and other costs. We respectfully request a full $500 million above the President's Salaries and Expenses request and a full $400 million dollars for the Buildings and Facilities account to repair older prisons and build some new ones.

Our union is strongly concerned about Section 827 of last year's Department of Defense Authorization Act of 2008, a provision that significantly changes the Federal Prison Industries prison inmate work program. FPI is a program that produces goods and services for the federal government, some under what is called "mandatory source" and some under competitive procedures. This program was created in 1934 by Congress to help control prison inmates. The Section 827 changes to the FPI program may eliminate up to 6,500 inmates and cut 500 more correctional staff. FPI sales pay the inmates, the staff, and the costs of operating the program. If BOP were to create a program similar to it, it would cost about $800 million in Salaries and Expenses funding. We urge you and your colleagues to look at the Section 827 changes and modify them or create other opportunities for inmate work. We must keep these offenders productively occupied in order to keep federal prisons safe.

Our union also is concerned about the trend to privatize federal prison work. We believe the committee was on the right track last year when they eliminated funding for A-76 processes. We are hopeful this will pass the committee again. Additionally, we believe the committee should review these private prison contracts. It has been reported that private prisons are not saving taxpayers dollars. Also, if any of them show a small savings it is due to the fact that they are not required to provide the same level of programs to inmates as the federal government is. Indeed, once these private operators get the contracts, some have attempted to renegotiate for higher prices. In one case, a private prison in Youngstown, OH, received a $100,000 bonus for having no violence in a four-month period. Each federal prison in the public sector would like a program like

that! Give federal employees bonuses if we keep our prisons running without violence for four months at a time and let the staff split the money. This truly needs looked at, including the revolving door of wardens and upper level managers rotating to the private prison contractors.

It is imperative that prison construction start to keep up with the population increases. We should be updating technology in current prisons adding new computers, work stations, radios, stab-proof vests, and less than lethal weapons. This should be a priority of the President and Congress to fully fund a law enforcement agency charged with keeping communities safe.

During a time when law enforcement agencies have seen huge increases, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has suffered stagnating budgets. Prisons should be seen as a part of the law enforcement system. As the government apprehends and convicts more individuals of crime, federal prisons should be built and staffed appropriately. It is projected in FY 2008 that we will receive a 7,400 net increase in the inmate population – while we put one new prison on line that will house about 1,500 medium security inmates this fiscal year. Where will the additional inmates go? Into gymnasiums, TV rooms, hallways, triple and quadruple bunking, you name it. We will put inmates everywhere.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we are asking for your help. Our staffing is low, our assault rates are up and inmates continue to flood into the system. We hope you will recognize this and do all you can to increase our staffing levels at an acceptable percentage.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Mr. Glover, for your testimony. Will you introduce the gentlemen who are with you in the audience?

Mr. GLOVER. Our Counsel President is Bryan Lowry. He represents the 114 prisons in the system as our Counsel President. And Mark Siwack is from Loretto, Pennsylvania and Greg Spizado from our Loretto, Pennsylvania facility. We had your Hazleton and Morgantown guys here. But they had to go to some other meeting.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Okay.

Mr. GLOVER. We didn't realize the delay.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you very much for your testimony. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you for doing a very tough job.

Mr. GLOVER. Thank you.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. That was excellent testimony. It covered a lot of territory. Thank you.

Mr. GLOVER. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you. Next the Committee would like to welcome Judge Steven Manley. Judge Manley is testifying on behalf of the National Association of Drug Courts Professionals.

Judge Manley, we admire your continuing hard work on behalf of drug courts and welcome you here today.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

DOJ GRANTS

WITNESS

JUDGE STEPHEN MANLEY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRUG COURTS PROFESSIONALS

Judge MANLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and Member Ruppersberger. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify this afternoon about drug courts. I am a Superior Court Judge. I am from San Jose, California, and greatly believe in the work the drug courts do.

I would like to begin by simply stating that our request is that you restore the drug court discretionary grant funding to our traditional $40 million level. But in saying that, I also want to express to you the thanks of every judge in this country who works in drug courts and the teams that work with them in drug courts for the incredible miracle that you made happen last year when we actually received an increase in funding. And I can assure you that that was not only appreciated, but it was put to work immediately.

And a testament of that and why this funding is so important is the fact that we have actually seen a growth in drug courts in West Virginia. They have increased from two. We are going to have 12 now. In California, where we have the most drug courts in some of our rural counties struck by methamphetamine and the epidemic that we see, we have new drug courts. New Jersey, one of our best drug court systems in the entire country. There is not a state that these investments that you make do not pay off.

And I am—you know, I sit here before you as a judge who supervises personally 1,500 defendants who are in treatment and in recovery and being closely monitored by a judge as to other judges across the state.

The history of this program is one that we as judges, and I know you have listened to a number of witnesses about our prison system, I think we as judges simply sat down and said, you know, it is time that we change. We have spent so many years locking people up who are sick with substance abuse and mental illness. We haven't attended to what happens when they get out of jail and prison. And they all do.

In California, 70 percent of those released from prison are back in prison within a year. And that is a fact. I mean, no one disputes it. So what do we do about it?

Well, one thing we do about it is to change the way we approach people and how we work with them. When we start treating the people that come before us, not as just another number, as another person to lock up or send to prison, I have been a judge nearly 30 years. I send people to prison every day. I don't enjoy it. I don't enjoy it, because I am now at the point where I am sending their grandchildren to prison and jail.

The success comes when you get involved with people and you help them change their lives. We don't change lives as judges. But people change their lives when they come to see that there is something better for them.

And with me today is—unfortunately, we had planned to have a witness from—or someone accompanying me from West Virginia. And the Chairman was present at his graduation. And then that didn't work out. But I am really pleased to be able to introduce to you one of our graduates from Maine, Linda Jalbert, who is seated here. And she actually epitomizes what this is all about. She is a graduate of a Maine drug court in the State of Maine. And she is on the staff of Senator Collins.

So she has come from this horrible disease of addiction and all that it carries with it in terms of destroying families and lives. And she has risen to the point of working in these halls and doing such a wonderful job.

And she comes here not to talk about herself as a shining example of drug courts. But really to give back. I mean, that is what this is all about. People who succeed in this program, people who try in this program, we see better outcomes.

And in the formal testimony that I submitted to you spells that out. I mean the recidivism studies—I mean, when you reduce recidivism by 16 percent, when the GAO recognizes this reduction, when the costs savings to states such as New York, California, it doesn't matter, New Jersey. The cost savings are astronomical when you consider the investment of federal money.

I think that if I was going to try and pinpoint an important issue for you, I think it is the fact that we have moved now from criminal into family and into recognizing that we are putting too many kids in foster care. Too many children are not being reunified with their families. We are not doing anything to hold families together. We are not investing as we did with Linda. Judge Thayer saw in her that there was hope. And that once she saw that that this would happen. And it did in her life.

We are not doing enough of that. And so we are changing the whole way we approach the dependency system of where we remove children from their families. And it has made a difference. It

is making a difference across the country. We are—our family in juvenile drug courts have increased dramatically in the last year.

Methamphetamine, which strikes us everywhere in this country now, it is an epidemic in California. However, Professor Rawson at UCLA did a very detailed study. It is the largest methamphetamine study in the United States. And it found that the drug court model was the most effective intervention with methamphetamine addicts. That it did produce not only fewer future arrests, but lower levels of drug use.

In other words, methamphetamine addicts were less likely to use drugs in the future, six months, twelve months, three years later, if they had been through a drug court.

If I can just take one moment of your time to also urge you to support another program. And I know this is probably seldom done. But I assure you the JAB/Byrne Grant Program is critical to the work of drug courts.

We stand beside law enforcement. They stand beside us. No drug addict ever goes anywhere without an intervention in their lives. And if it is a police officer, I guarantee you that is often. I listen to them again, and again, and again year after year. That is the person that brought them to us and woke them up to say you have got to do something about your life.

The program is badly needed, because of so many places in California alone, let alone all the other states where we don't have enough local law enforcement support.

We are about collaboration. You know that. We have began, you know, a journey. And I would like to leave you with this. We are trying to take drug courts to scale. This is a sentencing change by judges. Led by judges, but it is not judges who do it. We have to be supported by treatment. We have to have random drug testing constantly. We have to have frequent reviews. Judges have to step out and do more than they would normally do.

Our challenges are long, because we listen to people and get involved in their lives. If Linda was before me or any other drug court participant, I care about the outcome. When a judge accepts responsibility for an outcome, Judge Gaughan in West Virginia. I mean who really—you know, he has so many things, so many demands. There just aren't enough judges anywhere. But I particularly find that in West Virginia. And yet he reaches. He takes the time during his noon hour, I just spoke to him, to talk about the people that are going to come before him in the afternoon.

And, yes, this is a small program. And I realize that the President has eliminated it from his budget. But I am asking you to please restore this funding to our traditional level. It is important. It does make a difference in the lives of the people that come before us. And that is really what justice is all about.

It is not about whether the judge goes home early or the judge goes home and says I have done my job. Your job isn't done unless the people before you leave better than when you had to take them in brought to you by a police officer.

God bless you all. And thank you for the work you do. I know how difficult it is. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them. And I know Linda would be delighted to say anything.

[Written testimony of Judge Stephen Manley, Chair, National Association of Drug Court Professionals.]

Statement of

Judge Stephen Manley

Chair

National Association of Drug Court Professionals
Board of Directors
Legislative Committee

Before the

House of Representatives

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State

March 28, 2008

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Introduction

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and distinguished members of the committee, I am Judge Stephen Manley (CA), Chair of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' (NADCP) Board of Directors Legislative Committee. On behalf of the over 2,147 drug courts nationwide, and the over 120,000 annual drug court participants that NADCP represents, I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to you today about the critical need to **restore the funding for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program to the historical level of $40 million**.

The Department of Justice's Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program is a critical tool in the fight against substance abuse and crime, including the growing methamphetamine and prescription drug abuse epidemic. This program provides funding to drug courts in state and local jurisdictions based on a competitive application process. Federal funding received through this program is leveraged at the state level by over $4.40 for every federal dollar invested.

A program with such irrefutable outcomes and incredible merit as drug court must exist as the cornerstone of America's fight against substance abuse, addiction and escalating prison populations. Yet, it now faces an uncertain future.

The entire drug court field, 21,000 professionals strong, was deeply troubled to learn of the cuts to drug court funding in Congress in 2006 – an unfathomable 75% reduction from 2005's $40 million appropriation. However, because in large part to your subcommittee, the Appropriations Committee asked for the full restoration of funding to $40 million that ultimately provided $15.2 million in funding for this program for FY08. **We are deeply appreciative to you and recognize that a $5.2 million increase in last year's budget was a miraculous accomplishment.**

However, we share with all of Congress disappointment in not reaching the full $40 million appropriation. And now, with only $15.2 million left to the DOJ Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program, drug courts are unable to meet the current needs of our criminal justice system in addressing the problem of substance-abusing offenders. The National Association of Drug Court Professionals estimates that eliminating the DOJ Grant Program, as the Administration has recommended for FY09, will result in a loss of drug court treatment for more than 160,000 individuals on an annual basis - a shortfall which directly impacts public health and safety in our communities.

We can not afford to stop investing in drug courts, a valuable resource to combat crime in our cities and rural areas across the country. National research has concluded that drug courts decrease criminal recidivism rates; save taxpayer dollars; increase retention in treatment; and provide the best example of a federal-state partnership that offers the federal government a real, cost-effective deliverable in the fight against crime.

We have already seen the negative impact of reduced funding for drug courts. In the past three years, as a direct result of the decreased funding level, states have been unable to leverage critical federal funding to meet the needs of the increasing number of citizens that could benefit

from the program. Discouraging further state and local investment in this proven strategy undermines Congress' past investment and severely threatens the sustainability of this valuable program.

Drug courts serve approximately 120,000 clients annually. However, with an estimated seven million alcohol- and drug-dependent offenders in the American justice system, inadequately funding drug courts cripples the capacity of the programs to provide treatment to an increasing population of those in need. Without this access the disease of addiction continues unabated directly impacting the public safety and public health of our communities.

History of Drug Courts

In 1989, several public safety and public health leaders sought ways to convert a failing system into a successful model for intervention, rehabilitation and transformation. These judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, police officers, treatment providers, and others created the drug court model. Drug courts strike the proper balance between the need to protect community safety *and* the need to improve public health and well-being; between the need for treatment *and* the need to hold people accountable for their actions; between hope and redemption on the one hand *and* good citizenship on the other. Drug courts keep nonviolent drug-addicted individuals in treatment, supervise them closely, and reduce crime and drug use better than any alternative. Clients receive the treatment and other services they require to stay clean and to lead productive lives, but they are also held accountable by a judge for meeting their own obligations to society, themselves and their families. They are regularly tested for drug use, required to appear in court for the judge to review their progress, and receive rewards for doing well and sanctions for not living up to their obligations. Detention is a last resort, but one still available to the court when it is necessary.

Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program

In 1994 the Congress joined with communities across the country in seeing the promise of drug courts by enacting the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice, has administered the grant program since 1995. Appropriations to the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program reached a peak of $52 million in 2001, as Congress saw the positive impact drug court had in communities nationwide. Since that time, with the emphasis on terrorism and the war, the funding has been steadily reduced, reaching an historical low of $10 million in 2006, the effects of which are only beginning to be felt.

The primary purpose of the grant program has been providing the critical seed money, training and technical assistance to implement an effective drug court. Since 1995, we estimate that over 1000 communities have implemented a drug court because of OJP support.

The Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program is a proven and effective tool in the fight against substance abuse and crime. In a February 2005 report, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded that adult drug court programs substantially reduce crime by lowering re-arrest and conviction rates among drug court graduates well after program completion, providing

overall greater cost/benefits for drug court participants and graduates than comparison group members (GAO-05-219). Additionally, according to a study released by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) in 2003 from a sample of 17,000 drug court graduates nationwide, within one year of program graduation, only 16.4 percent had been rearrested and charged with a felony offense.[i]

Drug Court Research

The scientific community has put drug courts under its microscope and concluded that drug courts work better than jail or prison, better than probation, and better than treatment alone.

Drug courts are demonstratively effective. According to over a decade of research, drug courts significantly improve substance abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reduce crime, and produce greater cost benefits than any other justice strategy. Scientists from the esteemed Treatment Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania reported in 2003, "To put it bluntly, we know that drug courts outperform virtually all other strategies that have been used with drug-involved offenders" (Marlowe, DeMatteo, & Festinger, 2003). Additionally, Columbia University's historic analysis of drug courts concluded that drug courts provide "closer, more comprehensive supervision and much more frequent drug testing and monitoring during the program than other forms of community supervision. More importantly, drug use and criminal behavior are substantially reduced while offenders are participating in drug court" (Belenko, 1998; 2001). In 2005, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) published an extensive review of drug court research and concluded that adult drug court programs substantially reduce crime by lowering re-arrest and conviction rates among drug court graduates well after program completion, and thus, greater cost/benefits for drug court participants and graduates than comparison group members (GAO, 2005).

Most remarkably, drug court programs operate with an incredible cost-savings compared to traditional incarceration:

- Missouri – St. Louis[ii]
  - Graduates of the drug court saved $2,615 in the two years after program completion, compared to the cost of probation for post-release offenders
- Oregon – Multnomah County (Portland)[iii]
  - **Drug court programs save approximately $1,442 per participant** when compared to the cost of traditional court proceedings for drug offenses, which include jail time and probation services
  - It is estimated that for **every $1 spent on drug court, $7-10 is saved versus traditional court/ incarceration**
- Texas – Dallas County[iv]
  - For every $1 spent on drug court operation, $9.43 was realized over a forty-month period

Additionally, drug courts are one of the most effective tools we have to address the methamphetamine epidemic that is damaging our communities. Law enforcement and manufacturing restrictions have had a positive impact on our ability to deal with this epidemic,

but a critical part of our strategy must involve the treatment of the thousands of addicted individuals who enter our court systems. In June 2005, the Justice Department released a report confirming this claim and emphasizing how drug courts are a critical part of our strategy with methamphetamine.

Federal-State Partnership

Taking notice of federal leadership in funding the successful drug court model, states began to prioritize the implementation of the programs by passing authorizing legislation and supplementary appropriations. However, the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program provides the federal seed money, training and technical assistance support on which states rely to establish and implement sustainable drug courts on the state level. Without continued federal support through this program, states will be unable to maintain present drug court operation.

We estimate that for every $1 of federal support, $4 is leveraged on the state level. Thus, a $40 million appropriation can mean an additional $160 million of state funding. States are questioning the efficacy of the model when making difficult budget decisions; if the federal government is no longer invested in drug court, states are unlikely to devote the funding necessary to sustain the programs in their local budgets. Without the federal investment, courts will not be able to leverage the state funding necessary to continue providing life-saving treatment to the substance-abusing offenders flooding their courts.

The drug court program is a successful example of Congressional efforts to forge lasting federal-state partnerships. Today, we see states like California and New York who have completely institutionalized the drug court movement. Statewide evaluations have shown:

- California[v]
  - Drug treatment programs, regardless of participant completion, led to a benefit-cost ratio of nearly $2.50 per $1 spent, totaling $2,861 in cost savings per offender, representing **$173.3 million in net savings to the government**
  - **Graduates of the drug treatment programs reflected a total benefit-cost ratio of $4 savings per $1 spent**
- New York[vi]
  - On average, reconviction rates among drug court participants are 29% lower over three (3) years than the rate for parallel offenders not enrolled in drug court
  - **Over $250 million in incarceration costs were saved by diverting 18,000 non-violent drug offenders into treatment**

However, in states like West Virginia, Wisconsin, Connecticut, and Alabama, drug courts are only beginning to be developed and implemented. Without the federal support of the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program, those states are unable to successfully implement drug courts to solve the problem of growing populations of substance-abusing offenders.

Meeting the Need

As I mentioned, drug courts transform over 120,000 addicts each year in the adult, juvenile, and family court systems into drug-free, productive citizens. However, inadequacies in current funding levels impede the capacity of drug courts to meet the increasing need of growing populations of substance-abusing offenders. NADCP is in the beginning stages of launching a campaign to correct this...to take drug courts to scale. As we look towards the future, the federal support for this critical grant program must become a priority for Congress.

Two-thirds of adult arrestees and half of juveniles test positive for illicit drugs at arrest, yet, without funding for effective alternatives that offer intervention and treatment, such as drug court, we continue to incarcerate nonviolent, substance-abusing and addicted offenders at a great price to our nation and its citizens. Unless we, as a nation, support programs that address substance abuse as the impetus for a majority of criminal offenses, **1 in every 178 Americans** will be living behind jail or prison bars by 2011. A cost to taxpayers of **$27.5 billion** over the next five years beyond what we currently spend.[vii]

If we are truly going to save the lives of the addicted, break the familial cycle of addiction for future generations, have a substantial impact on associated crime, child abuse and neglect, reduce poverty, alleviate the over reliance on incarceration for the addicted, and reduce many of the public health consequences in the United States, drug courts must be taken to scale. There is no greater opportunity for a systemic social change in the justice system. We need a drug court in every county in America, each with enough space and resources to treat everyone in that community who needs it. Only this rational course of action can stem the drug epidemic and return our citizens to their families and to our community.

We look forward to working with you and your dedicated staff in ensuring the continued success of the drug court movement through sustained federal support for the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program.

Thank you, Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and distinguished members of the committee for your leadership in this area.

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[i] Bhati, S., Roman, J., Townsend, W. *Recidivism Rates for Drug Court Graduates: Nationally-Based Estimates, Final Report.* National Institute of Justice. July 2003.

[ii] Institute for Applied Research. *A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Saint Louis City Adult Felony Drug Court.* Saint Louis, MO. 2004.

[iii] U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. *Drug Courts: The Second Decade.* National Institute of Justice Special Report: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij, June 2006.

[iv] Fomby, T.B. & Rangaprasad, V. *DIVERT Court of Dallas County: Cost-Benefit Analysis.* Dallas, TX: Report to the Dallas County DIVERT Court. August 2002.

[v] Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA). *Evaluation of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act: SACPA Cost-Analysis Report (First and Second Years).* California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Health and Human Services Agency: http://www.uclaisap.org/prop36/documents/SACPA_COSTANALYSIS.pdf, March 2006.

[vi] Rempel, M., Fox-Kralstein, D., Cissner, A., Cohen, R., Labriola, M., Farole, D., Bader, A., & Magnani, M. *The New York State Adult Drug Court Evaluation: Policies, Participants, and Impacts.* New York, NY: Center for Court Innovation. 2003.

[vii] Public Safety Performance Project. *Public Safety, Public Spending: Forecasting America's Prison Population 2007-2011.* The Pew Charitable Trusts. 2007.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well I think you do a tremendous job, Judge Manley, advocating for drug courts. And obviously you do an excellent job in your primary responsibility of managing a court and these cases.

I think the Committee is totally supportive of you. We are operating in horrible budget situations where we have to make excruciatingly difficult decisions. But I can tell you your testimony is influential. It is impressive. It is passionate. And, obviously, you are testifying about a program that works. Percentage wise it works in a very difficult area.

We don't have time to talk about this. However, I look forward to continuing talking with you about it as we have in the past.

Drug courts are imperfect in this way. They are operating in the criminal system. They are the answer, certainly the way to go. What I would be interested in is your comment about the necessity for a civil incarceration option for certifiable, active drug addicts, because you almost have to trick somebody if you are concerned about them into the criminal system to get them into the kind of review that a drug court represents. Otherwise there is no way to incentivize protecting them against the cravings of addiction.

Judge MANLEY. You are absolutely correct, Mr. Chairman. And I agree with you. I wish we had a civil system. I wish we were working towards that, because I can tell you from doing this work for almost 15—over 15 years actually, individuals do not change unless they come to believe in themselves, and unless they come to have hope in themselves, and unless they actually love themselves. And so much of this is denial.

But when someone is deeply involved in the disease, and I see them every day, I wish there was somewhere they could be separated for a period of time to have that awakening. And I wish it could be done in a civil context and that we did not have to spend all the resources of the criminal justice system on it.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Get away from the craving. Is there anybody out there in academia, or institutes, or some wise people who think about this medically, who is talking about or researching a civil incarceration option for certifiable, active drug addicts?

Judge MANLEY. Yes, there is. Unfortunately, we have it in effect in California. And it has miserably failed because it was placed within the prisons. But it is—I will tell you what the real challenge is. It is—in my mind it is you can have great results by moving someone into that situation who will benefit from it over an extended period of time. You then must move them back into the community.

And that is the real challenge. And that is what they are working on. And I think that, you know, whether you locate the facility in the local area where the person is going to live, or for some people, I mean, this is a great challenge to us.

You know, again, I am unfortunately using the criminal analogy. But with gang members, it is so hard for them to escape their environment no matter what you do with them. They certainly need to be removed from that environment for a long, extended period of time until they no longer need the gang association.

The same is true with the civil. You have to be able to remove the addict from the situation where the triggers are always there

to use. Everything they see leads them to use. The people they run into. And once you have got them to the point where they are—feel strong enough to withstand that, how do you move them back into the community and keep them there without using? And that is a real challenge civilly where we have—where the judges' powers are extremely limited and their discretion——

Mr. MOLLOHAN. You do the same way you do in the criminal system with your drug courts. I look forward to following up with you.

Judge MANLEY. Thank you, sir.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Ms. Jalbert.

Ms. JALBERT. Jalbert.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Jalbert. Yeah, well thank you for your presence here today and for you example. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. About a half dozen members told me of your reappearance before this Committee, which testifies to all that you have said and the passion which you have given to the establishment of these drug courts.

I know in my home state, which you mentioned, New Jersey, the work that they do with people that have these addictions, it is remarkable. It is a wonderful thing.

And I am honored to have you testify before us again to reemphasize that this is a program that works. And, we need to fund it.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you. Mr. Ruppersberger.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Excellent testimony. I really appreciate the comment you made about the judge's responsibility for the actual outcome. I think there are maybe not as many judges that are really focused as you and other people are. But if we are going to do that, we are going to help you and those individuals that are in this line. We need to give you the resources to do it. And that includes the ability for not only the counseling but also job training. You know, there is a stigma when looking for jobs. And we have to turn a lot of those issues around.

About three weeks ago there was an article in TIME magazine written by Robert Simon who was involved with the Wire if you have ever watched the Wire it takes place in Baltimore. Years ago I used to do a lot of drug work. And similarly a lot of why the Wire had done so well is because the fact that it is reality.

And you see—this article in TIME was about this drug cycle. We are doomed for failure in the United States if we don't deal with this cycle of drug crimes and drug addiction.

But what his article said is basically that in the past law enforcement would focus more on the cartels or the people that weren't addicted but who were making money. It seems so easy now to make continual arrests and not just for drugs but for other crimes that occur to get the money.

So you now have a system where we are constantly in the—mostly inner-cities arresting the same people over and over again. And it is almost a culture thing.

We have heard testimony here today about the prison system. We have incarcerated I think more people in this country than any other country in the world. And a lot of them are addicted people.

I just think it is a really important issue that has to be dealt with. You heard the States Attorney's Association saying they don't have the resources.

And, again, I sit on a Committee that deals with terrorism. We have taken money away from combating drugs, and drug addiction. We have taken the focus off drugs and put it into terrorism, which we need to deal with. We have right before us one of the most serious problems that is occurring in the world.

And I would say—and I don't know if anyone has this number. But what percentage of people in prison are addicted or have committed drug-related crimes? Do you have any idea what that would be?

Judge MANLEY. Yes, sir. There is a recent study from BJA that shows that—they did a sample of a large number of prisons and county jails in the United States. And close to 60 percent are substance abusers, have a substance abuse background and about 40 percent mental health.

I have seen it before my eyes. It is a huge number. And there was a recent research study out of the American Journal of—a judicial journal that shows some eight out of ten men released from prison have severe substance abuse problems.

That is why you are—you are so correct that—you know, I start with a very simple concept and that is that it is judges, if you want to look at it, it is our job.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Well, you have the power.

Judge MANLEY. But we put people in prison. What we don't do is look for alternatives and to do things for them other than sending them to prison.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Which we are not going to change overnight.

Judge MANLEY. Right.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. But it seems to me that we could develop pilot programs and then show the outcome of these programs, how successful they are. It would be something that we really have to focus on.

You mentioned gangs. The Chairman worked with me on a gang project last year about how we deal with gangs because gangs are regional. One of the major issues with gangs is that gangs exist because gang members see the gang as their family.

Judge MANLEY. Right.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Their family life was not good and the gang becomes part of their family. And one of the things this gang project Appropriation is going to do is to try to reach junior high school students. Try to get the communities to help these kids before they get to the gangs. That is also a very important component.

Judge MANLEY. A very important issue.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Thank you.

Judge MANLEY. Extremely, thanks.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Mr. Ruppersberger. Thank you, Judge.

Next the Committee would like to welcome to the hearing Ms. Rachel Shonfield. Ms. Shonfield will testify on behalf of the National Council of EEOC Locals, Number 216, AFGE, AFL–CIO.

Welcome to the hearing.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

EEOC

WITNESS

RACHEL SHONFIELD, LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EEOC LOCALS

Ms. SHONFIELD. Thank you very much. Good afternoon, Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen. My name is Rachel Schonfield. And I am the Legislative Coordinator for the National Council of EEOC Locals. We represent the bargaining unit employees at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

I am here to give you a view of the challenges, which the EEOC is facing from the perspective of our front-line workers. And I am one of them as a trial attorney at the EEOC.

The Council remains gravely concerned that civil rights enforcement in this country is being compromised from five years of level budgets, staggering backlogs, and a failure by the EEOC's administration to replenish front-line staffing losses.

To address these concerns, the Council is urging the inclusion of bill and report language for fiscal year 2009, which would increase funding to 378 million. This is the funding level that the Senate recommended for the EEOC last year.

Second, we would urge the support of language directing the hiring of permanent front-line field staff. Similar language was included in the House report last year. And also similar languages last year requiring ongoing oversight over EEOC restructuring, which has been delayed and therefore this issue is still relevant.

The primary challenge at the EEOC is that we don't have enough EEOC workers to get the work done. The incredibly important responsibility of ensuring the American dream to this nation's workers is put on the shoulders of an ever dwindling workforce.

Since 2002, our agency has lost 25 percent of its workforce. And this was a very small workforce to begin with. We are hovering nationwide at only about 2,000 employees. That includes headquarters and field offices. Last year, despite the fact that the agency received the funding request they asked for, the agency for some reason refused to staff up to the staff ceiling and left 200 positions vacant with no explanation. And these positions would have really helped. When you walk through our hallways they are empty.

The small group of dedicated workers who are left are responsible for processing over 82,000 charges of discrimination and 54,000 backlogged charges. This is the largest amount of discrimination charges since 2002, yet the smallest number of EEOC employees to deal with them since recorded history basically.

The national ramification of the increasing work and the decreasing staff is a skyrocketing backlog of charges. This past year, the backlog went up 37 percent to 54,000. And it is expected to rise to 100,000 by fiscal year 2010.

These dusty files actually represent people who weren't being served. These are people who are still in some cases sitting on the

job suffering racial harassment, or sexual harassment, or retaliation, or disabled employees who would like an accommodation. But they are waiting on help from the EEOC. And that help is taking about seven months.

The Office of Inspector General has collaborated these problems. And has said, and I quote, "That the agency is challenged in accomplishing its mission due to a reduced workforce and increasing back load—backlog of pending cases."

Our investigators have higher case loads than they have in a very long time, which makes it very difficult to provide a substantive investigation. And things are really so bad for these investigators that we are suffering in the offices where we don't have enough paper, enough envelopes, copy machines have been taken away, and the ones that are left are jamming all the time.

The EEOC has historically resisted asking for a budget increase. But this year they are finally asking for an increase of $12 million. The EEOC absolutely requires an adequate budget increase to repair the damage.

Unfortunately, the EEOC's request is four percent increase after five years of level funding. EEOC's own budget submission indicates that this isn't an adequate funding level to turn things around.

Even with this modest increase in budget and modest staffing increase, the fiscal year 2009 budget submission by the EEOC shows that the backlog is going to continue to go up, rather than down. And I think that is the top indicator that that is not enough funding.

Last year, this Subcommittee saw that it was in the best interests of the public to provide a greater increase to the EEOC than it was actually requesting. And the EEOC's employees believe that the Subcommittee should do so again this year.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to be able to thank the Subcommittee in person for listening to the concerns of our members last year and defunding EEOC's disastrous call center.

I would request that this Subcommittee continue to provide oversight of the implementation of the in-house call center. So far it has been plagued by delays. After six months, the EEOC finally hired low-graded employees, provided minimal training, put them on the job reading scripts. And this is basically cloning the contract center. And we would prefer to get a successful result this time, not a failing result.

The Council has therefore recommended that the agency staff the call center with investigator support assistance, ISAs. This is a paraprofessional position. It begins at grade five and goes up to grade seven.

And these folks would be able to answer the phones without using scripts. They would be able to provide substantive help both to the public and to the EEOC's workforce, because they would be able to participate in drafting charges and other substantive parts of the charge handling process.

We would also like to bring to the Committee's attention that the EEOC is preparing a proposal, which makes changes to the federal sector process. Indications are that the changes could be controversial, because they would affect the rights to discovery and a hear-

ing for federal employees claiming discrimination in certain employment actions.

Therefore, we would ask that this Committee please make sure that EEOC comply with the regulatory process. And when they implement any federal sector reform, including posting in the Federal Register. This allows for feedback and other oversight.

In closing, I want to thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member for listening to us, for inviting me to testify. I hope my statement gives you some insight into the difficult challenges of EEOC. And I would be happy to answer any questions.

[Written testimony of Rachel Shonfield, Legislative Coordinator, National Council of EEOC Locals No. 216 AFGE/AFL–CIO.]

STATEMENT OF RACHEL SHONFIELD, LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EEOC LOCALS, NO. 216, AFGE/AFL-CIO TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES ON FY 2009 APPROPRIATION FOR EEOC, INCLUDING INCREASING FUNDING AND REPLENISHING STAFFING
April 2, 2008

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and members of the Subcommittee, my name is Rachel Shonfield and I am the Legislative Coordinator for the National Council of EEOC Locals, No. 216, AFGE/AFL-CIO. I am speaking in place of Council President Gabrielle Martin, who is out of the country. The Council is the exclusive representative of the bargaining unit employees at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), including investigators, attorneys, administrative judges, mediators, paralegals, and support staff located in offices in 53 cities around the country. I am here to give you a view of the challenges, which EEOC is facing, from the perspective of EEOC's frontline-workers. I want to thank you for the opportunity to express our views to the Subcommittee on the proposed FY09 budget for the EEOC. The Council remains gravely concerned that civil rights enforcement in this country is being compromised due to five years of level budgets at EEOC, staggering case backlogs, and a failure by EEOC's administration to appropriately prioritize what funds are available for replenishing frontline staffing losses. To address these concerns, the Council urges the inclusion of bill and report language in the FY09 funding measure which: (1) increases funding to $378,000,000, i.e., the FY08 funding level passed by the Senate last year; (2) directs the hiring of permanent frontline field staff to at least the requested staff ceiling of 2,556, in order to reduce the backlog; and (3) requires ongoing oversight of headquarters and field restructuring.

Introduction:
The EEOC was created by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC's mission is to enforce this nation's laws, which protect against discrimination in employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, and disability. As an EEOC Trial Attorney, I have tried cases, which are exemplary of the statutes we enforce. In one case a longtime female employee trained a male employee, who was then paid more than her to do the exact same job. In another case an employee was harassed because of her age. A different case concerned pregnant servers, who were not allowed to wait tables. A final case involved a landmark restaurant, which for years failed to hire any female servers. These injustices should not happen. Rather, employees should have an equal playing field to get a job, earn an income and support their families- without suffering discrimination, which prevents them from getting hired or results in harassment on the job or termination. To put it simply, EEOC's job is to ensure that the American dream is accessible to the nation's workers.

The Council Thanks This Subcommittee for the FY08 Report and Bill Language:
The Council first wishes to thank this Subcommittee for listening and responding to the concerns of our members last year. Most significantly, for FY08 this Subcommittee included report and bill language, which defunded the EEOC's disastrous contract call center. Also, the FY08 report

language called for the hiring of permanent frontline field staff to reduce the agency's swelling backlog. Additionally, the omnibus bill language retained oversight, which prevents EEOC from taking any action to restructure without first coming to the Subcommittee. Finally, the Council is very grateful that this Subcommittee recognized EEOC's critical situation and tried to increase funding, despite the agency unjustifiably standing by its request for a fifth year of level funding. Unfortunately, despite this Subcommittee's efforts, in the end the omnibus bill provided EEOC with only level funding.

EEOC's Primary Challenge: Not Enough Frontline EEOC Employees To Do The Work: The incredibly important responsibility of ensuring the American dream to this nation's workers is put on the shoulders of a very small agency, which continues to get smaller. Specifically, since 2001, EEOC has lost over one quarter of its employees. This Subcommittee's report language last year noted that according to EEOC Chair Naomi Earp most of the staff losses were to the ranks of investigators, support staff, and attorneys. This means that EEOC's entire workforce nationwide is now so small that it hovers at just over 2,000 employees. And only a portion of the 2,000 are frontline employees, who directly serve the public by investigating, mediating, and litigating charges of discrimination, including resource intensive systemic cases.

This small group of dedicated workers is responsible for processing the over 82,000 charges of discrimination, in addition to 54,000 backlogged charges. So while in FY07 the EEOC received the greatest number of charges since 2002, EEOC has fewer employees than it has ever had since at least 1980. EEOC's investigators have seen their inventories of cases climb to as high as 250 cases. These unreasonably high caseloads do not allow investigators to do an effective job of interviewing witness, reviewing documents, attempting conciliation, etc.[1]

The natural ramification of increasing work and decreasing staff is a skyrocketing backlog of charges of discrimination. EEOC's backlog has grown from 39,000 in FY06 to 54,000 in FY07. That is a 37% increase in one year. In its FY09 budget submission, the EEOC anticipates that at the end of FY08 the backlog will be 66,976. However, as of February 2008, the backlog is already 70,209, thus exceeding the full year projection. The forecast only gets worse. According to EEOC's FY09 budget, the backlog will continue to rise to 75,000 in 2009. For 2010, EEOC Chair Naomi Earp predicted in a PowerPoint slideshow presentation to stakeholders, that the backlog would grow to over 100,000 cases.

All of these backlog statistics represent American workers who are not receiving help. Employees who are suffering racial or sexual harassment or retaliation are still on the job waiting expectantly for action from the EEOC. However, the average amount of time it takes for EEOC to process a charge has risen from 171 days in FY05, to 193 days in FY06, and as of this February 2008 it is over 200 days. This wait of almost seven months could feel endless to a victim of discrimination, like someone with a disability who is hanging on to his job waiting for EEOC to assist him in getting an accommodation.

EEOC's Office of Inspector General (OIG) corroborates the Council's concerns about EEOC's shrinking workforce and growing backlog, stating:

[1] Additionally, on March 23, 2008, an arbitrator ruled against an EEOC attempt to change FLSA classifications, in order to avoid paying for the overtime that employees often work to keep up with their high caseloads.

> The Agency is challenged in accomplishing its mission of promoting equality of opportunity in the workforce and enforcing Federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination due to a reduced workforce and an increasing backlog of pending cases. EEOC has experienced a significant loss of its workforce, mostly to attrition and buyouts that the agency offered to free up resources.
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> Further, the Agency is faced with an aging workforce that is increasingly retirement eligible. EEOC will have 42 percent of its employees eligible for retirement between fiscal years 2007 and 2012, which includes 46 percent of its investigators and 24 percent of its attorneys. Unfortunately, other than preparing annual succession plans, there is little evidence of succession planning implementation or recruiting and retention strategies.

In addition to staffing levels being at a record low, EEOC is also starved for basic office resources. Employees often have to scramble around to find office supplies. Even the number of copy and fax machines in field offices has been cut, with the remaining machines prone to paper jams. This problem of lack of support staff is compounded by having professional employees wasting their time wrestling with broken copiers.

Despite its Claims, EEOC Does Not Rely Upon New Efficiencies:
EEOC's Chair is fond of saying that the agency is making do with less by relying on new "efficiencies." However, there is no evidence of new efficiencies only new buzzwords. For instance, a claim that the agency is using a "national model" is a euphemism for using one field office's hard-pressed resources when the staffing in another office is too low to get the work done. This is done when federal sector hearings cases and private sector charge are transferred around the country, to offices with no geographic connection. The transferred cases are then quickly closed without effective investigation by the overwhelmed office which receives them. Transferring cases does not improve efficiency to the public, who needs substantive help. EEOC also does not consistently train its employees, either to improve skills or to take advantage of current technology, much less carry out new mission initiatives or efficiencies.

EEOC Should – But Does Not - Prioritize Replenishing Frontline Staff and Resources:
EEOC should prioritize replenishing lost staff and maintaining existing employees, in order to reduce the backlog. Instead, EEOC intentionally keeps staffing levels as low as possible, and then locks in those staffing losses. First, EEOC has perpetuated a multi-year hiring freeze. When EEOC does hire, it rarely results in a net gain of employees. Second, EEOC actually offered early-outs and buy-outs in 2006 to encourage retirement even of frontline investigators, in order to further shrink the workforce. Third, EEOC locks in these staffing losses by moving offices to smaller space or reducing existing space.

Finally, the EEOC refuses to fill over 200 budgeted slots, which are desperately needed. For FY07, EEOC received more funding than it requested. [2] However, even though EEOC's FY07 budget request had called for 2,381 full time equivalents (FTE), EEOC ended the year with 2,137 FTE's. The EEOC has provided no explanation for refusing to fill these two hundred slots.

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[2] In a bizarre move, EEOC had actually asked that its FY07 budget be cut by almost $5 million. However, Congress kept EEOC at slightly more than level funding, thus avoiding the budget cut.

For FY08, EEOC requested 2,381 FTE's, the same as the FY07 request. Congress funded EEOC at the requested level, so EEOC should maintain staffing at the requested level. At the Senate CJS Subcommittee Hearing on May 3, 2007, EEOC Chair Naomi Earp was asked by Ranking Member Shelby "whether the 2,381 full-time equivalents in the fiscal 2008 budget request is EEOC's current staffing or a ceiling on commission employees. Earp replied that 'we plan on hiring to our ceiling.'" *Daily Labor Report, May 4, 2007.* The Council urges this subcommittee to ensure that EEOC does in fact hire to its staff ceiling of 2,381 for FY08.

For FY09, the Subcommittee should increase EEOC's FTE ceiling by at least the 175 FTE's EEOC is requesting. To ensure hiring keeps up with attrition, the Council would suggest including report language requiring a net increase of at least 175 FTE's and a total of no less than the requested 2,556 FTE's. It should also be specified that these slots are intended to be used for permanent frontline field positions, similar to this Subcommittee's FY08 report language.

EEOC Requires An Adequate Budget Increase To Repair The Damage:
Five years of flat funding and questionable management decisions have left EEOC a shell of the agency it was a few years ago. Staffing is down. A controversial field restructuring downsized offices. Backlogs and months long case processing times threaten EEOC's ability to help victims of discrimination. Three years of a disastrous experiment to outsource customer service to a contract call center sucked up millions of dollars that were critically needed in-house.

Last year the Council sent out an SOS message for a budget increase and this Subcommittee responded. However, EEOC resisted. Finally, with another year of poor customer service statistics, even the EEOC admits a budget increase is necessary. So now all parties agree that an increase is in order. Unfortunately, the $12 million increase EEOC is requesting amounts to only a 4% raise after five years of stagnant budgets. Due to the staffing and backlog crisis, the Council respectfully requests that this Subcommittee adopt the increase called for by the Senate's FY08 appropriations, i.e., a $50 million increase resulting in a budget of $378 million. The increase should be used to replenish staffing and resources, in order to reduce the agency's backlog. Last year, this Subcommittee saw that it was in the best interest of the public to provide a greater increase than what EEOC was requesting. The Council believes that the Subcommittee should do so again this year.

Subcommittee Should Retain Bill Language Regarding Oversight of EEOC Restructuring:
On January 1, 2006, as part of a nationwide field restructuring, EEOC downsized a dozen offices. The restructuring added bureaucratic layers, but no frontline staff. EEOC also failed to follow through on its commitment to improve to one to ten, its ratio of supervisors to staff. This would have moved redundant layers of management to frontline positions.

The final phase of EEOC's repositioning is the delayed restructuring of headquarters, which has been promised for two years. The intent of the headquarters restructuring should be to reduce redundancies and layers of management. These resources should be utilized to aid the frontline work in the field offices. The Council urges the Subcommittee to retain bill language regarding oversight of this restructuring. Additionally, Congress should assure a transparent process for public and internal stakeholders to have an opportunity to provide feedback of a draft plan.

Oversight Is Needed for EEOC's In-House Call Center to Provide Quality Service:
After this Subcommittee issued its FY08 report language defunding the poor performing outsourced call center, EEOC's Commissioners voted in July 2007 to terminate the contract. The agency then dragged its feet, during which time temp workers answered the phones, with scant training and little ability to provide substantive help to the public. Six months later, EEOC finally hired low-graded employees and gave them just two weeks of training, which only allows them to read from scripts, take messages, and send out questionnaires, much like the former contract operators. Since EEOC appears to be merely cloning the contract call center, it is also likely doomed for failure. In July 2007, the Council issued a more effective transition plan, available on www.council216.org, which recommends hiring Investigator Support Assistants (ISA's) (GS-5/6/7). An ISA is a paraprofessional bridge position to investigator. With appropriate training, ISA's would not need scripts and would also be able to provide substantive assistance, including drafting charges. In addition, these ISA's would create a qualified pool to become investigators, as desperately needed vacancies are hopefully filled. Ongoing oversight by this Subcommittee is necessary to ensure the implementation of these and other reasonable recommendations that will lead to the success of EEOC's In-House Call Center.

EEOC Must Comply With the Regulatory Process On Federal Sector Reform:
Finally, I would like to bring to your attention that EEOC is preparing a proposal, which makes changes to the Federal Sector process. Indications are that the changes would be controversial, because they would affect the rights to discovery and a hearing for Federal employees claiming discrimination in certain employment actions. The Council asks that this Subcommittee ensure that EEOC comply with the regulatory process, including posting a notice in the Federal Register, before proceeding with any changes to Federal Sector enforcement.

Conclusion:
In closing, I want to again thank the Chairman, Ranking Member and the Subcommittee for inviting me to testify. I hope my statement will give you insight into the difficult challenges facing EEOC. I urge the Subcommittee to include bill language in the FY09 funding measure which: (1) increases funding to $378,000,000, i.e., the FY08 funding level passed by the Senate last year; (2) directs the hiring of permanent frontline field staff to at least the requested staff ceiling of 2,556; and (3) requires ongoing oversight of headquarters and field restructuring.

CHART: EEOC'S TROUBLING CUSTOMER SERVICE TRENDS[3]

		FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY2007
1	Full Time Employees	2,924	2,787	2,617	2,462	2,349	2,250	2,137
2	Backlog	32,481	29,041	29,368	29,966	33,562	39,946	54,970
3	Charge Receipts Filed	80,840	84,442	81,293	79,432	75,428	75,768	82,792
4	Resolutions	90,106	95,222	87,755	85,259	77,352	74,308	72,442
5	Avg. Charge Processing	182	171	160	165	171	193	199

[3] National Academy of Public Administration report, 2/2/03; EEOC Budget Requests; www.eeoc.gov.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well your testimony wasn't very optimistic about in-housing the call center.

Ms. SHONFIELD. I think that the largest obstacle, which was bringing back in house and integrating it has been accomplished. I just think that the agency hasn't been very creative in making sure that the in-house version doesn't suffer the same mistakes.

And the problem is that if you just have very low graded folks just reading scripts and taking messages, which is what is happening, then all those messages and all the substantive work goes back to the shrinking pool of investigators. And then we have got our backlogs. And they just can't keep up.

I mean, if you want to have this kind of in-house call center, then we definitely need more investigators to absorb all the work. Or another possibility is what we are recommending of having this paraprofessional position that would be able to do more substantive responsiveness when the public calls. Actually be able to give answers, sort through these calls, and be able to draft charges.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Is that option too late, the paraprofessional responders, because the positions have already been filled otherwise?

Ms. SHONFIELD. Well it may not be, because—I have a question that I have sent the staff regarding the fiscal year 2009 budget request. It asks for 66 new employees for the in-house call center. Now that is how many the EEOC was supposed to bring in 2008. So it is not clear whether they are doubling up the staff or now saying this is a new request. If they are asking for 66 new employees, then those could be the ISAs.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. What happens to the people they have just hired, the less credentialed people?

Ms. SHONFIELD. Perhaps there could be a transition where we try to get more ISAs on the phones. And in the future just fill those positions and keep the lower graded employees as incumbents until maybe they could get enough training to become ISAs.

And that is also the beauty of the ISAs is the bridge position to investigators. And 42 percent of our staff is eligible for retirement. And ISAs would be a qualified pool to move in when EEOC is able to fill the investigator vacancies.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Forty two percent of the staff is eligible for retirement?

Mr. SEDGWICK. Yes.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. By years in service, or age?

Ms. SHONFIELD. I don't know. It was part of the—part of the IG report. I think it is a combination of both. But I am not sure.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I noted the same issue in there. But I am not sure we will get the answers here. It is a pretty alarming figure.

Ms. SHONFIELD. Yeah. They——

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Talk about instability.

Ms. SHONFIELD. One of the points of the Office of Inspector General's report that came out in October of 2007 is the lack of succession planning at the EEOC, because we have lost so many people and so many people are eligible for retirement.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you for your testimony.

Ms. SHONFIELD. Thank you very much.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Next the Committee is pleased to welcome Sheriff Thomas Burgoyne. Sheriff Burgoyne is the sheriff of Ohio County, West Virginia. He is a law enforcement extraordinaire, having a tremendous resume coming off a career as an FBI special agent. He is continuing to lend his expertise to law enforcement in the Upper Ohio Valley and leadership in the West Virginia, including the West Virginia Sheriff's Association.

Sheriff Burgoyne, it is a pleasure to have you here today. And we very much appreciate your testimony. Beyond that, we very much appreciate your good service back in West Virginia.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

DOJ

WITNESS

THOMAS BURGOYNE, SHERIFF OF OHIO COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. BURGOYNE. Thank you very much, Congressman Mollohan. And it truly a pleasure after 45 years to be able to appear before you today for my comments.

In fact, on another note, I just had a chance to visit with Judge Manley out in the hall. And I am sure he could have submitted my comments today as well.

I am very familiar with the drug court concept in West Virginia. And it is working very, very well. And I am sure the First Lady of Idaho could have also given my comments today, because what we are talking about is the same thing. We are talking about prevention.

As the Congressman said, I am currently the Sheriff of Ohio County, West Virginia. But more importantly I think at this point in my career, I am a member of Fight Crime Invest in Kids, a national anti-crime group of more than 3,500 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and victims of violence throughout the United States who are all taking a hard nose look at the research about what really works to keep kids from becoming criminals.

As a sheriff, I know there is no substitute for tough law enforcement, because we do it every day. However, no punishment can undo any crime. It is a proven fact.

Fortunately research and our experiences in the real world show that targeted investments that help kids get a good start in life and that intervene effectively to redirect these offending juveniles onto a different path can prevent crimes and make our communities much safer.

Research has shown that quality after school programs can transform the "prime time for juvenile crime," that time period 3:00 in the afternoon to 6:00 at night, into hours of academic enrichment, constructive recreation, and community service.

For example, a study of recent boys and girls clubs show that comparable housing projects throughout the country without boys and girls clubs had 50 percent more vandalism and scored 37 percent higher on people hitting other people.

One source of funding for after school efforts is Title 5 of the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. A moniker that you know as JJDPA.

Because of lack of funding for these after-school programs, more than 15—almost 15 million children, I think the actual stat is 14 million, go home to an empty house every day. And that is an alarming statistic, 14 million.

Juvenile mentoring, like after school, has also been shown to cut crime. A study of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organization found that young people who are randomly assigned to a mentor were about half as likely to begin illegal drug usage. And nearly one third less to hit somebody compared to those who were assigned to a waiting list. Those are interesting stats.

Back in West Virginia, I started a program when I became Sheriff called SWEAT, Support Wheeling's Effort Assisting Teens. And I started taking sixth and seventh grade boys out to cut grass and do lawn jobs on Saturdays. And that was my golf. And these kids right now are junior in high schools.

And I would like to brag that one of them just recently was invited to Rutgers University. He is being looked at by the football coach. Two of the young boys, now they are all juniors in high school, were members of the all-state basketball team starting unit in West Virginia. And all three of them maintain an average of about 3.5 in their high schools. And this really shows that mentoring makes a difference. These kids are all inner-city kids.

Effective interventions that reduce recidivism such as the Functional Family Therapy, FFT, have been shown to reliably cut crime. FFT has been shown to cut rates of re-arrest. And that is what you have been hearing about today from these other witnesses who have testified.

Cut those re-arrests in half by intervening with families to teach them how to better control their children's behavior and saves the public an average of $32,000 per youth.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant, JABG and JJDPA, which I talked about earlier, state formula grant funds have been used to support these efforts.

Effective reentry approaches such as the Multi-dimension Treatment Foster Care, MTFC, can also combat this high rate of recidivism of juvenile offenders.

Compared to similar juveniles, this approach cuts the average number of repeat arrests for serious, delinquent juvenile in half. And those are just mind boggling statistics.

When you are talk—I heard the Judge talking about 16 percent. We are talking about 50 percent here. And this saves the American public an average of over $77,000 for every juvenile treated. And these folks are doing the research that make these statistics jump out at us.

The Bipartisan Second Chance Act can support programs like this. And I urge you to fully fund the programs recently authorized by the Second Chance Act. Effective juvenile prevention and intervention activities such as those supported by Title 5, juvenile mentoring grants, Title 2, and JABJ remain so woefully underfunded, as we all know, that they reach only a fraction of the kids that could benefit from them.

If we could have more kids, like the three, or four, or five that I am dealing with personally, the country would be so much better off.

We encourage you to demonstrated your commitment to crime prevention by rejecting proposed cuts in block granting and by increasing funding for federal juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs.

If we are dealing with—if we deal with the little fingers now, we won't have to deal with the big fingers that pull those guns—triggers in our urban areas. It only makes good sense.

In addition to addressing other law enforcement funding priorities, we urge you to, at a minimum, restore funding for JJDPA Title 2 state formula grants to $89 million, JJDPA Title 5 funding to $95 million, and JJABG funding to $250 million, levels appropriated by Congress in the past in fiscal year 2002. And at least continue with the funding of $70 million for juvenile mentoring.

These funds combined with state and local funding to support many evidence-based programs that keep kids from entering lives of violence.

I think everybody here today talked about the problems we are facing. And if this money can be channeled into a way to stop these creatures from becoming formed in the first place, then we are going to much better off.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear here today. I have certainly enjoyed listening to the other testimony that came before me. And I thank you for what you do for our country.

[Written statement of Sheriff Thomas F. Burgoyne, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.]

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3,500 Police Chiefs, Sheriffs, Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement Leaders, and Violence Survivors

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

April 2, 2008
Public Witness Hearing

Testimony by:

Sheriff Thomas F. Burgoyne

Ohio County Sheriffs Office
Wheeling, WV

On Behalf of
FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies:

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. My name is Tom Burgoyne and I am currently serving my second term as Sheriff of Ohio County, Wheeling, West Virginia. I served thirty-three years as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was Deputy Director of the Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization, a program of the National Institute of Justice until my election as Sheriff of Ohio County in 2000. I am also a member of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS, an anti-crime group of more than 3,500 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and victims of violence from across the country who have come together to take a hard-nosed look at the research about what really works to keep kids from becoming criminals.

As a Sheriff, I know there is no substitute for tough law enforcement. When violence occurs, punishment is important and necessary. However, no prison can bring back a murdered loved one, and no punishment can undo a crime. Fortunately, research—and our experiences—show that targeted investments that help kids get a good start in life and that intervene effectively to redirect offending juveniles onto a different path can prevent crime, and can make our communities safer.

Title V, Juvenile Mentoring, Title II and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) provide needed support for these evidence-based prevention and intervention approaches to reduce recidivism. The bipartisan Second Chance Act will authorize additional support for some of these approaches. On behalf of my fellow law enforcement leaders around the country, I urge you to increase our nation's investments in these proven crime-prevention strategies that save lives and taxpayer dollars.

Keeping Kids Away from Crime

When the school bell rings, millions of children and teens head to the street with neither constructive activities nor supervision by caring, responsible adults—and violent juvenile crime soars. Research from across the country consistently shows that on school days, the hours from 3 to 6 pm are also the peak hours when children are most likely to become victims of crime, be in an automobile accident, smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs.

Fortunately, quality afterschool programs can cut crime and transform the "prime time for juvenile crime" into hours of academic enrichment, constructive recreation and community service. For example, in a study conducted in several U.S. cities, five housing projects without Boys & Girls Clubs were compared to five receiving new clubs. At the beginning, drug activity and vandalism were the same. But by the time the study ended, the projects without the programs had 50 percent more vandalism and scored 37 percent worse on drug activity. More than fifty years of research findings show Boys & Girls Clubs can successfully reduce crime. A recent study showed that specially designed anti-gang Boys & Girls Club programs can effectively recruit and retain children who are at high risk of becoming involved in gangs, and even youths who are already in gangs. The evaluation of the anti-gang Boys & Girls Club programs found

that the high-risk children and teens in these clubs showed decreases in several gang and delinquent behaviors. These youth also exhibited positive changes in their engagement or achievement in school.

One source of funding for after-school is Title V of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA). The Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Grants program is the only federal funding source dedicated solely to the prevention of youth crime and violence. Almost 1,500 communities have received Title V grants since 1994 through a competitive grant process that requires states and localities to match at least 50% of the grant with cash or in-kind contributions.

Juvenile Mentoring, like after-school, has also been shown to cut crime. A study of Big Brothers Big Sisters found that young people who were randomly assigned to a Big Brother or Big Sister mentor were about half as likely to begin illegal drug use and nearly one third less likely to hit someone compared to those who were assigned to a waiting list.

After becoming Sheriff in 2001, I started a program called, "Supporting Wheeling's Efforts Assisting Teens" (SWEAT). On Saturdays, for the past seven years, I, along with other deputies from my office, take inner city and mainly minority youth to perform numerous lawn and landscaping efforts in our community. The youngsters are paid in cash for their efforts and have a chance to interact with law enforcement. This year, I am proud to announce that three of our participants, all juniors in high school, maintained well over a 3.0 grade average with one being named All-State in football and the other two boys starting members on the West Virginia State Championship Basketball Team representing Wheeling Central Catholic High School. These boys were part of the program since 7th grade. Mentoring does make a difference!

Reducing Recidivism through Effective Interventions

Effective interventions for young offenders that incorporate community sanctions have also been shown to reliably cut crime. One such program is the Functional Family Therapy (FFT) program. FFT works to engage and motivate youth and their families to change behaviors that often result in criminal activity. In one evaluation, families with troubled youths were randomly assigned to either a group that received FFT or one that did not. The youths who families received FFT were half as likely to be re-arrested as the youth whose families did not receive the family therapy. By reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders, FFT saves the public an average of $32,000 per youth treated.

The Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) program targets kids who are serious juvenile offenders by addressing the multiple factors – in peer, school, neighborhood and family environments – known to be related to delinquency. One MST study followed juvenile offenders until they were, on average, 29-years-old. Individuals who had *not* received MST were 62 percent more likely to have been arrested for an offense, and more than twice as likely to be arrested for a violent offense. It is also less expensive than other mental health and juvenile justice services like residential treatment and incarceration, saving the public $4.27 for every dollar invested.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) or JJDPA state formula grant funds have been used to support these efforts.

Reducing Recidivism through Effective Reentry Approaches

The transition of juvenile offenders from confinement to "life on the outside" presents great risks and opportunities for young people and society. Each year, approximately 100,000 juveniles leave correction facilities. Unfortunately, many young people are released without access to critical services, thereby increasing the likelihood that they will return to crime. Juveniles released from confinement still have their likely "prime crime years" ahead of them. Perpetrators over age 17 commit 85% of all violent crimes and young adults aged 18 to 21 account for a greater percentage of crime than any other four-year age group. Unsuccessful transitions into the community result in an alarmingly high recidivism rate for juvenile offenders of 55-75%. Fortunately, the likelihood that young people will successfully transition back into society after confinement improves markedly with comprehensive, research-based reentry efforts. Comprehensive reentry programs are especially effective among young people. With their brain development still in progress, young ex-offenders are more amenable to effective behavior modification interventions, thus saving lives, anguish, and public tax dollars.

Effective offender reentry efforts include programs like Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC). MTFC provides specially trained foster parents and ongoing supervision by a program case manager, as well as frequent contact and coordination of services with a youth's parole or probation officer, teachers, work supervisors and other involved adults during and after a youth's out of home placement. Compared to similar juveniles placed in non-secure group facilities, the MTFC approach cuts the average number of repeat arrests for seriously delinquent juveniles in half, and six times as many of the boys in MTFC as boys in a group home were not arrested again. MTFC is also cost-effective: it saves the public an average of over $77,000 for every juvenile treated.

Needed Investments

The bipartisan Second Chance Act can support effective reentry efforts, including programs like Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care. The Second Chance Act authorizes assistance to states and localities to develop and implement strategic plans for comprehensive efforts to enable ex-offenders to successfully reenter their communities such as: family reunification, job training, education, housing, and substance abuse and mental health services. The bill would also provide for research on reentry, as well as create a national resource center to collect and disseminate information on best practices in offender reentry. We all want safer communities and the Second Chance Act is a step toward reducing the high recidivism rate among juvenile and adult offenders. I urge you to fully fund the programs recently authorized by the Second Chance Act (H.R. 1593), including funding the Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects at the authorized amount of $55 million.

Effective juvenile prevention and intervention activities, such as those supported by Title V Local Delinquency Prevention grants, Juvenile Mentoring grants, Title II State Formula Grants and

JABG, remain so woefully underfunded that they reach only a fraction of the kids who could benefit from them. For example, because of lack of funding for after-school programs, more than 14 million children and teens go home from school to an empty house each week. Similarly, given that at least half of the 144,000 delinquents placed out of home nationwide in 2002, and a significant proportion (the more serious ones) of the 385,000 youth placed on probation each year, could be more wisely served by FFT, MST, or MTFC, it is easy to see that together these programs could increase their coverage by a factor of ten or more before they would begin to run out of eligible youth.

Unfortunately, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposes to eliminate all of the JJDPA/JABG funding sources and create a single, new "Child Safety and Juvenile Justice" block grant. This block grant would be funded at a level that is 57% lower than the total Fiscal Year 2008 funding for the programs eliminated. We encourage Congress to demonstrate its commitment to crime prevention by rejecting proposed cuts and block-granting, and by increasing funding for federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs. In addition to addressing other law enforcement funding priorities, we urge you to, at a minimum, restore funding for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) Title II State Formula Grants to $89 million, JJDPA Title V funding to $95 million, and Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funding to $250 million—levels appropriated by Congress in Fiscal Year 2002—and at least continue current level funding of $70 million for Juvenile Mentoring.

These funds combine with state and local funding to support many evidence-based programs that do the most to keep kids from entering lives of violence. These programs are cost-effective and make our communities safer by reducing youth crime. Law enforcement leaders' commitment to putting dangerous criminals in jail must be matched by Congress' commitment to keep kids from becoming criminals.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our views on how your Subcommittee can help to reduce crime and make us all safer.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, thank you, Sheriff, for what you do for our country. And thank you very much for your testimony here. It is expert testimony. And your good works come through.

Mr. BURGOYNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you for being here. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you, Sheriff. Rutgers Athletics is the up tick. So we are very happy to take anything out of West Virginia to help—even to improve some very good athletic teams.

Mr. BURGOYNE. I will make sure this young man gets a chance to meet you.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Hopefully we will get him in.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Tom.

Mr. BURGOYNE. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. The Committee would next like to welcome Mr. Jeff Trandahl with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

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NOAA

WITNESS

JEFF TRANDAHL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Mr. TRANDAHL. How are you doing, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Good, Jeff. How are you doing?

Mr. TRANDAHL. Very good. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

You have our prepared remarks, so I will try to keep this as brief as possible in order to expedite your hearing along here.

You know, after I retired from the Hill after 23 years, and two-and-a-half years ago I went down to take over this little-known foundation that has partnered with 23 federal agencies, of which NOAA is one of the partners.

NOAA, we became the official foundation to them. Actually it was created up here in Congress in 1984, the foundation was. And it was created to partner with the federal agencies in order to put in federal seed money. And then for us to turn around and grow private dollars along side it.

So we do that traditionally at about a three-to-one rate. So every federal dollar that we bring in from the agencies, we generally are able to produce three additional dollars towards conservation programs.

The foundation only does projects on the ground. We don't do any advocacy, any lobbying, any litigation. And the effort there was to try to forge those partnerships between the agencies and the private sector in order to increase philanthropic thrust toward conservation.

In 1994 or—yes, 1994, NOAA determined that the foundation would become their official foundation. And through the Marine Fisheries, we traditionally had been funded at $2 million a year.

What we are asking for in 2009 is to be funded at $4 million. Actually in 2007 and 2008 we weren't funded at all for our activities with the organization due to everyone's constraints here.

I would say quickly for the agency, it is not that they are not supportive of what we try to do and not happy with all the projects. Again, it was the demands on limited resources out there in 2007 and 2008 that really left us in a situation where we could be funded directly by the agency.

Our programs are very wide and very varied. For example, we obviously run an enormous Chesapeake Bay program. We do a Delaware River program, marine debris, sea turtles. All efforts to pull together industry and agencies in order to develop working on the ground, demonstration projects. They can be replicated in other places in order to have this as large an impact as possible.

With that, I will answer any questions that you have. My very detailed testimony has been submitted.

[Written testimony of Jeff Trandahl, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Fund.]

TESTIMONY OF JEFF TRANDAHL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES
REGARDING THE FY 2009 BUDGET FOR
THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding FY 2009 funding for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation). We appreciate the Subcommittee's past support and respectfully request your approval of **$4 million through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) FY 2009 appropriation.**

This funding request is well within the authorized level and would allow the Foundation to uphold our mission and expand our successful partnership with NOAA. Mr. Chairman, I want to make one very important point: we are asking for your support of well-established conservation programs with national significance. The Foundation is an honest broker for the federal agencies and we have a remarkable track record of bringing private partners together to leverage federal funds and maximize conservation impacts.

In 1994, Congress expanded the Foundation's mandate to specifically include NOAA's mission to restore and protect marine and coastal resources. During FY 2001-2006, the Foundation received an average appropriation of $2 million annually to further the mission of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and National Ocean Service through cooperative agreements and leveraging of private sector funds. In FY 2007, the Foundation sustained cooperative agreements with NOAA to continue our partnership programs. We respectfully request that the Subcommittee restore NOAA appropriations for the Foundation in FY 2009 to accelerate our work with NOAA to protect coastal habitats and marine species.

This FY 2009 request would allow the Foundation to expand key partnerships and highly successful grant programs in the areas of marine debris removal, coral reef conservation, marine species protection and coastal ecosystems such as Delaware Bay, Long Island Sound, Tampa Bay, San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound and Chesapeake Bay. The Foundation continues to excel in grant-making while providing thought leadership, accountability and sustainable conservation outcomes. Our unique ability to organize federal agencies and private partners to work together to achieve mutual conservation goals through on-the-ground and in-the-water grant programs is notable and there is significant potential to advance these efforts in FY 2009 and beyond.

In addition to NOAA, the Foundation works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and other Department of Interior agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), among others. On average, every federal dollar is leveraged with three or more matching dollars from the non-federal sector. Therefore, a NOAA appropriation of $4 million in FY 2009 would turn into a minimum of $8 million, according to the Foundation's Congressional Charter which requires a minimum of a 1:1 match, and have the potential to turn into $16 million or more for on-the-ground conservation. Funds appropriated by this Subcommittee are fully dedicated to project grants and do not cover any overhead expenses of the Foundation.

This Subcommittee's funding will also attract additional funding for conservation through corporate sponsorship, legal settlements, and direct gifts. Through our targeted grants, the Foundation strategically invests federal funds entrusted to us to achieve measurable success in "moving the needle" on collaborative conservation objectives over the next five to ten-year period. To date, the Foundation has leveraged more than $53 million in NOAA funds to invest more than $157 million for on-the-ground and in-the-water conservation. Over 1,200 project grants have been awarded, focusing on the conservation needs of at-risk species, habitat enhancement, coastal restoration, marine debris clean-up, environmental education, and community-based stewardship.

Conserving Fish, Wildlife, Plants and Habitats

FY 2009 appropriations through NOAA will be focused on mutually agreed upon projects according to our Keystone Initiatives and the objectives of the Foundation's Special Grant Programs, which are specific to a geographic area, group of species, or conservation concern. The Keystone Initiatives represent the new core portfolio of the Foundation's grant making with clearly defined long-term goals, well-articulated strategies, and defined budgets to reach desired outcomes. In 2007 the Foundation continued implementing a new strategic plan and developing targeted Keystone Initiatives, with the goal of achieving sustainable and measurable conservation impacts.

Four Keystone Initiatives were launched by the Foundation in 2007: (1) Birds (2) Wildlife and Habitats (3) Fish and (4) Marine and Coastal Conservation. Each grant approved under a Keystone Initiative will be designed to provide a measurable outcome that brings us one step closer to the final long-term conservation goal of the Initiative. Achieving success through our Keystone Initiatives will also help to fulfill the objectives of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, among others.

With increased support through NOAA appropriations, the Foundation can accelerate our collaborative efforts to achieve long-term conservation impacts for fish and wildlife through our Keystone Initiatives. Increased funding in FY 2009 will also help to strengthen the Foundation's Special Grant Programs, a few of which are highlighted below:

- **The Coral Reef Conservation Fund** was initiated in 2000 with NOAA to build public-private partnerships and leverage resources for effective stewardship of marine and coastal resources, and the communities that depend on them. FWS and NRCS have contributed to the Fund which supports grants to reduce and prevent degradation of coral reefs and associated habitats. Recently, the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation provided additional support for our efforts in Hawai'i and Tesoro Corporation is providing additional support in 2008 for an education and outreach campaign. The Foundation has provided funding for nearly 200 projects with $7.3 million in federal and non-federal funds, leveraged with $11.6 million in non-federal matching funds, for a total investment of $18.9 million for coral reef conservation in 38 countries, including 4 U.S. states and 8 U.S. territories.

  The International Sea Turtle Conservation Fund supports projects for the six species of sea turtles found in the Western Hemisphere, all of which are considered endangered or threatened. Since 1998, grants have been awarded for more than 100 projects in over 25 countries, representing a total of $6.2 million in funding from both federal and non-federal sources. Projects focus on key nesting and foraging areas for species survival as well as local capacity-building and outreach with fisherman to increase awareness and minimize damage caused by certain fishing techniques to marine turtle populations. This collaborative effort with NOAA and FWS is the leading source of funding for sea turtles in the Western Hemisphere.

- **The Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program** was established in 2006 through a partnership with NOAA's Marine Debris Program. The program focuses on improving best management practices of ports and marinas, reducing derelict fishing gear, and research to better understand the impacts of marine debris on marine mammals, sensitive habitats, and tourist and fishing industries. Since 2006, the Foundation has supported 28 projects with over $1.2 million in federal funds, leveraged with over $1.5 million in non-federal matching funds for projects in 13 States and 4 U.S. Territories. In 2007, the Foundation formed partnerships with industry to prevent debris introduction to the marine environment, including the new *Reel in and Recycle* Program in partnership with Pure Fishing and Berkeley Recycling, and the *Nets to Energy* in partnership with Covanta, aimed at recycling retiring or derelict fishing gear and convert it into energy.

  The Pinellas County Environmental Fund (PCEF) is a unique partnership formed in 2000 between the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, NOAA, and the Foundation to actively pursue the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat around Tampa Bay. PCEF helps to implement the on-the-ground habitat and species conservation recommendations developed through the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and incorporated into the Tampa Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Since inception, the PCEF has leveraged $9.6 million with an additional $14.3 million in matching funds to support 123 projects for a total conservation investment of nearly $24 million in the Tampa Bay area.

Other Special Grant Programs supported by NOAA, including the Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program, Long Island Sound Futures Fund and Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, continued positive results in 2007 with grantee requests far exceeding available funds. As mentioned, the Foundation is successfully building bridges between the government and private sector to benefit NOAA's mission. FY 2009 appropriations through NOAA allow the Foundation to continue our investment in common-sense, innovative, cooperative approaches that directly benefit coral reefs and other marine habitats as well as targeted species, such as Loggerhead turtles, Hawskbill turtles, and Pacific coho salmon.

A Tradition of Successful and Accountable Performance

Since 1984, the Foundation has awarded nearly 9,500 grants to over 3,000 organizations in the United States and abroad and leveraged – with our partners – more than $400 million in federal funds into over $1.3 billion for conservation. NFWF is recognized by Charity Navigator with a 4-star rating for efficiency and effectiveness. The Foundation has taken important strides to improve our grant review and contracting process to ensure we maximize efficiency while maintaining strict financial and evaluation-based requirements. Interactive tools through our website have improved communication with our stakeholders and helped to streamline our grant-making process. We expect that as of spring 2008, the Foundation will be operating under a paperless application system.

Grant-making through our Keystone Initiatives and Special Grant Programs involves a thorough internal and external review process. Peer reviews involve federal and state agencies, affected industry, non-profit organizations, and academics. Grants are also reviewed by the Foundation's Keystone Initiative staff, as well as evaluation staff, before being recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. In addition, according to our Congressional Charter, the Foundation provides a 30-day notification to the Members of Congress for the congressional district and state in which a grant will be funded, prior to making a funding decision.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, we greatly appreciate your continued support and hope the Subcommittee will approve funding for the Foundation in FY 2009.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Jeff.

Mr. TRANDAHL. Absolutely. I know the day. I have been here many times.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Good to see you back.

Mr. TRANDAHL. Oh, absolutely.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I am familiar with the work of the foundation. It is a good return on investment.

Mr. TRANDAHL. Absolutely.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Three to one, I mean, that is pretty unusual.

Mr. TRANDAHL. Yes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. It would be nice to get some funding into that line item.

Mr. TRANDAHL. Yes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you very much.

Mr. TRANDAHL. All right. Thank you, sir.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Next the Committee would like to welcome Dr. Bob Gagosian on behalf of the Friends of NOAA Coalition. Doctor.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

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ROBERT GAGOSIAN, THE FRIENDS OF NOAA

Mr. GAGOSIAN. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen. Thank you very much.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. You see that your predecessor went so fast. I mean, you know, did he make an impression? Yes, he did.

Mr. GAGOSIAN. I hear you. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Friends of NOAA. My name is Robert Gagosian. I am currently, as of three months, the new President of the new organization, Consortium for Ocean Leadership. In my previous position, I was President of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for 13 years.

The Friends of NOAA stakeholders representing almost 50 different organizations, institutions, and consortia from the academic and environmental communities in the private sector. And as you know, together we really value the lifesaving services that NOAA provides for the nation. And we respectfully encourage you to support a budget for NOAA, no less than $4.5 billion.

As you know, NOAA's funding has remained flat since fiscal year 2005. Yet NOAA's requirements and obligations have increased dramatically.

Let me just give you three quick examples. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2006 requires NOAA to end overfishing by 2010.

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy contained 212 recommendations for improving the health of the oceans and coastal areas, the bulk of which fall upon NOAA.

And third, the National Academy of Sciences report entitled "Earth Science Applications from Space and Beyond," highlighted the potential loss of remote sensing data that is critical for understanding our global environment and managing our natural resources.

We are very grateful for the bipartisan manner in which your Committee provided additional resources for NOAA last year. It is gratifying to see that the House, the Senate, and the Administration with comparable requests. I hope this indicates a growing appreciation and respect for the service that NOAA provides to the nation.

The President's budget request of $300 million plus up for NOAA's satellite and climate sensors. While these are important, large, and welcomed investments, they are still far short of the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences.

However, given the plus ups in the satellite programs, the NOAA budget request effectively cuts the rest of the agency by $100 million from fiscal 2008.

The National Ocean Service and the Office of Atmospheric Research requests $100 million and $25 million less respectively when—then appropriated in fiscal year 2005.

How can we expect NOAA to fulfill its mission when its core programs are being cut every year? If NOAA received only a three percent annual inflationary increase in fiscal year 2005, its fiscal year 2009 budget would be $4.4 billion.

Given the many challenges dealing with climate change, we believe that a request of $4.5 billion for NOAA is truly a bare minimum for NOAA to fulfill its critical mission of protecting lives and livelihoods.

Being the President of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, which represents 95 of the leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, I would like to address for a moment, if I may, the ocean's role in climate change.

The climate is a complex system that includes earth, atmosphere, and ocean interactions. We know much less about the oceans than the atmosphere, which is critical given the oceans are the most important force shaping the earth's climate, transporting vast amounts of heat, water, and carbon across the globe.

In fact, the top ten percent of the ocean contains more heat than the earth's entire atmosphere. The oceans also serve as the lungs of the planet, absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen. In total, the oceans make life on earth possible.

Not only are the oceans the key driver of global climate, but they are also being impacted by a rapidly changing environment. Alterations to the oceans physical, chemical, and biological components include acidification of seawater that is making it more difficult for small organisms to form their shells and skeletons.

Secondly, the infusion of fresh water from melting glaciers that could wreak havoc on the climate of Northern Europe. And thirdly altered sea surface temperatures that affect weather patterns and storm intensity.

Our ability to understand, predict, mitigate, and adapt to a rapidly changing environment is being addressed by all of the science agencies under your purview. NOAA is the lead agency for climate

change research and modeling and supports a wide variety of climate change programs.

We appreciate your commitment to NOAA's climate change programs in the fiscal year 2008 mark-up. And hope that your support will continue.

I also encourage your continued support for NSF, as it is the largest source of ocean research and education funds in this country. I hope that you will be able to return NSF to its doubling path as called for in the America Competes Act.

NSF supports cutting-edge ocean research, including the recommendations contained in the Ocean Research Priorities Plan, which focused on the interactions between the ocean and society.

NSF also supports critical infrastructure such as the Academic Research Fleet, the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, the Ocean Observatories Initiative, and the Alaska Regional Research Vessel. These platforms are going to be critical in helping us elucidate climate change through access to historical, regional, and real-time data in the harshest of environments.

NASA also plays a critical role in understanding the climates through its earth science and satellite programs. While the President's budget establishes the funding is which to address the recommendations of the Decadal Study, the request is $700 million short of that estimated by the National Academy of Sciences.

This shortfall will result in the loss of time series observations that are essential for monitoring and building environmental models and forecasts. We encourage you to provide additional funds for NASA's earth science programs and missions, so that we can have access to ocean color, sea surface winds, and temperature, and ocean height data.

On behalf of the Friends of the NOAA Coalition and the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, I appreciate your consideration with respect to these requests.

[Written testimony of Robert B. Gagosian, PhD, Friends of NOAA Coalition.]

Robert B. Gagosian, Ph.D
Co-Chair, Friends of NOAA Coalition
President, Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Testimony Regarding the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriation Act
Before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC
April 2, 2008

I am pleased to submit testimony on behalf of the Friends of NOAA Coalition, which represents approximately 50 different organizations, institutions, and groups from the academic community, the environmental community and the private sector. I am also the President of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, which represents 95 of the leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, aquaria and industry. As supporters, stakeholders and partners of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Friends of NOAA Coalition respectfully requests an appropriation of at least $4.5 billion for NOAA in FY09. This is the minimum amount of funding required for NOAA to fulfill its mission.

We are encouraged that for the first time in recent memory, the President's FY09 budget request is higher than the previous year's allocation. However, the President's budget falls far short of that necessary for NOAA to fulfill its missions addressing the many challenges facing our planet. Given the recommendations of the National Academies of Sciences report entitled "*Earth Science and Applications from Space: National Imperatives for the Next Decade and Beyond,*" we know that there are considerable fiscal needs for the NOAA satellite programs. While these are critical programs that we support, we encourage you to avoid further erosion of funding for the core NOAA programs that have protected lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans for more than three decades.

NOAA's funding has remained flat at $3.9 billion since FY05, yet NOAA's requirements and obligations have increased dramatically. For instance, the reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act brings with it many new requirements for NOAA, including ending overfishing by 2010. Given the many daunting environmental challenges facing our nation, NOAA has been unfairly tasked to do more with less money each year. In fact, an annual inflationary increase of just three percent since FY05 would yield a $4.4 billion budget for NOAA in FY09. Given the more than $300 million plus up in the satellite and climate sensor programs proposed in the President's FY09 budget, we believe that $4.5 billion is truly a bare minimum necessary for NOAA to maintain its core program capabilities.

As you know, NOAA is a critical science agency, providing decision makers with critically important information and services that enhance the nation's economy, national security and quality of life. The America COMPETES Act states that "NOAA shall be a full participant in any interagency effort to promote innovation and economic competitiveness through near-term and long-term basic scientific research and development..." We contend that as a participant in the America COMPETES Act, NOAA should be considered in the budget doubling effort.

Clearly, climate change is one of the most prominent scientific issues facing society with enormous societal and economic repercussions. NOAA is the lead federal agency supporting research for global climate change and modeling its causes and impacts. As the climate changes, the global transfer of heat, carbon and water are altered in manners that have not been seen for millions of years. We are just now beginning to see the impacts of a rapidly changing climate through increased intensity of extreme weather events, acidification of ocean water, sea level rise, alteration of ocean water temperature, currents, and habitat; all which have enormous implications for human and wildlife. The ability to understand, predict, mitigate and adapt to a changing environment is a monumental domestic and international challenge that NOAA is leading.

The largest obstacle to understanding how the earth system works and thus providing insights to climate change is access to reliable, quality and consistent data streams. Atmospheric and ocean data are accessed through a variety of platforms including radar, satellites, ships and ocean observatories. This information is translated into products and services including forecasting the weather, predicting natural hazards, as well as managing, conserving and restoring our agricultural, coastal and ocean resources. The economic and societal impacts from mismanaging these resources is tremendous as are the benefits of being able to better predict catastrophic weather events such as hurricanes, tornados, blizzards, floods, droughts and heat waves. In our opinion, NOAA provides a significant return on investment for our nation's economy and citizenry.

We are very supportive of congressional and agency efforts to transition various NOAA initiatives into competitive programs. For instance, the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) has moved from a set of distinct regional projects into a nation-wide competitive program that coordinates, shares, transforms and transitions ocean data into services to protect public health and help manage coastal resources. NOAA has also begun to competitively fund the Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection (CELP) program that protects important coastal and estuarine areas that are threatened by conversion to other use. We encourage you to reinforce the notion of competitive programs with respect to climate, weather, ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research, conservation and management programs in your FY09 measure.

Last year, the Administration released the interagency Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy to provide a framework for research investments in ocean science for the coming decade. We believe that dedicating additional resources toward these priorities in FY09, as recommended in the President's FY09 budget, is an important step forward towards fulfilling the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

We greatly appreciate the bipartisan manner in which your committee addressed many of the pressing needs for NOAA last year. Unfortunately, most of the progress made in your FY08 measure was lost in the final consolidated appropriations act. Considering that NOAA programs strongly impact the lives of all Americans, we hope that you will once again craft a bill that recognizes the critical research, products and services that NOAA provides to the nation.

On behalf of the Friends of NOAA Coalition, thank you for your consideration of our request.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Doctor Gagosian. We appreciate your comments and observations about our efforts to transition some of the NOAA initiatives into competitive programs. And we look forward to your observations as that proceeds, and where it works, where it doesn't work. And we appreciate your testimony here.

Mr. GAGOSIAN. Thank you for your time.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you.

Next we would like to welcome the testimony of Dr. Paul L. Hill. Dr. Hill, we would like to welcome you to the hearing today.

Dr. Hill is Vice Chancellor of Science and Research at West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. He is also Chairman of the National EPSCoR IDeA Foundation. I appreciate the opportunity to express my appreciation for the good work you are doing back in West Virginia promoting research. You are doing excellent work. And we appreciate your being here today to share your insights and expertise with our Committee.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

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PAUL L. HILL, VICE CHANCELLOR OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH, WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

Mr. HILL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Frelinghuysen. Certainly it is my pleasure to appear before you today to provide this testimony, particularly on behalf of not only my work as a State Director in the EPSCoR program, but on behalf of the EPSCoR IDeA Foundation, a group of 27 states, which I currently Chair as the Board Chairman.

I want to provide testimony regarding both NSF and NASA's experimental program to stimulate competitive research today.

For fiscal year 2009, we respectfully request your consideration of $133.2 million for the NSF EPSCoR program and $20 million as the budget for the NASA EPSCoR program.

This $133 million we are requesting is the amount authorized for the NSF EPSCoR program in the fiscal year 2009 in last year's America Competes Act. It is something you have heard referenced several times today.

The effectiveness of that legislation really depends upon this level of funding at the authorized levels to ensure the talents of all the states are fully utilized to address our nation's research and innovation needs. And we do feel that indeed that is vital to contribute to the national interests.

The amount authorized for the NSF program would really help the 25 EPSCoR states, plus the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, to play a more prominent role in the national research community.

Over the past few years, this Subcommittee has been very supportive of the EPSCoR program. And for this we are certainly very grateful. Let me express my gratitude to you today for what you have done.

However, we believe now is the appropriate time for the NSF to be particularly aggressive in increasing support for the EPSCoR

states. There are numerous actions the NSF could continue to take to reinvigorate the program.

First, in the EPSCoR 20–20 Workshop, which we have provided a copy to the Committee, recommended raising the level of the NSF research infrastructure program awards from three year $3 million per year awards to five year $5 million per year awards.

These awards are really the core of the EPSCoR program. And NSF has moved in the direction of extending the time frame of the five-year period, but has yet to increase the amount of the awards.

So ultimately each institution may have somewhere between $1 or $1.5 million annually for actual research program enhancement. That amount simply does not buy the improvements and the advancements required to truly grow the research infrastructure.

Second, the 20–20 work-ups report endorses a transparent expansion of cofunding and of cyber infrastructure support, something the agency has begun to work on. But we believe cofunding can legitimately be expanded beyond the budget request currently before you. And that there are cyber infrastructure needs, which are identified in Dr. John Connelly's cyber infrastructure report to the National Science Foundation, which was a work-up of—all the states got together to provide input on that report. And we have also shared that with the Committee.

For NASA, in fiscal year 2009, we are requesting an appropriation of $20 million. Last year, NASA made two key programmatic changes in administrative changes to the EPSCoR program.

First, it increased the number of eligible states from 20 to 27 to be consistent with the NSF designation of EPSCoR states. Second, it changed the funding mechanism for implementation awards, resulting in fewer awards to the states for specific projects.

Increasing the funding is needed to accommodate the seven new states in the program and to ensure that each state has more than one implementation award and to avoid any adverse impact on the smaller states.

Now let me just mention a few moment—take a few moments to talk about what the EPSCoR programs has meant to the State of West Virginia. As one of the five charter states, as you know, Mr. Chairman, we have benefitted greatly from this program.

In 2001, we were awarded a $9 million NSF infrastructure grant. And we recruited nine new faculty members. And those have really emerged as research leaders on our campuses.

In May 2006, we were awarded another three year research infrastructure grant, which allowed us to build on that capacity and recruited another 12 research faculty members.

One of the indicators of the resulting research capacity is the successful application to federal grant programs have shown steady increase. We have gone from a little over 35 million in 2001 to more than 86 million in 2006. In other words, EPSCoR is really working.

The success of the research initiatives seeded by EPSCoR infrastructure grants have persuaded policymakers at the state level to significantly increase the state's investment in research. More than ever this is a truly state and federal partnership that has formed in this regard.

Since 2004, state legislators have dedicated funds to the state's Research Challenge Fund. We did a retrospective study of $8.4 million that was invested that attracted an additional $20 million from external sources, created five startup companies, and projected revenues of $124 million from these companies.

This kind of result really helps policymakers justify the continued investment in research. So last year Governor Joe Manchin and the State Legislature set aside $10 million in additional funding to grow research programs at West Virginia University and Marshall University.

Both institutions are using those dollars to support research at some of the most challenging health issues facing our nation, from breast cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, as well as new forms of energy, energy use, and climate change.

But last and certainly not least, just a few weeks ago the Legislature passed a bill creating a research trust fund of $50 million in surplus state revenue. The Governor has indicated he will sign that legislation tomorrow morning in his office. These funds will go to WVU and to Marshall and ultimately lead to business spinoffs, new patents, and new job creation.

None of this would have been possible. In other words, I don't think we would really have had this conversation at the state level had we not had the federal NSF EPSCoR program and the stimulus, the discussion that it offered about a vision for growing research at the state level.

So every state has important contributions to make to the nation's competitiveness. The 25 states and two jurisdictions in EPSCoR represent 20 percent of the U.S. population, 25 percent of the research and doctoral universities, and 18 percent of the nation's scientists and engineers.

We believe in the value and power of EPSCoR, both as a catalyst for improvement in our respective states and as a contributor to America's increased competitiveness in a global economy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to present before you today.

[Written testimony of Paul L. Hill, PhD, Chairman, EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation.]

Testimony of Paul L. Hill, Ph.D.
Chairman, EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation
Vice Chancellor for Science and Research
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
Submitted to the House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
April 2, 2008

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, my name is Dr. Paul Hill and I am the Vice Chancellor for Science and Research at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Chairman of the national EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the National Science Foundation's (NSF) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). For Fiscal Year 2009, we respectfully request $133.2 million for the NSF EPSCoR and $20.0 million for the NASA EPSCoR programs.

The $133.2 million the EPSCoR states are requesting is the amount authorized for the NSF EPSCoR program for FY 2009 in last year's America COMPETES Act. We believe the legislation is essential to our nation's security, quality of life and economic prosperity, and fully endorse the recommended increases in Federal R&D funding included in the Act. We also believe the effectiveness of that legislation depends upon both full funding at the authorized levels and ensuring the talents and expertise of all states are fully utilized to address our nation's research and innovation needs. "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" and "Is American Falling Off the Flat Earth" have documented the potential perils of inaction.

The $133.2 million authorized for the NSF EPSCoR program would help the 25 EPSCoR states, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, play a more prominent role in the national research community. It would help these 27 jurisdictions expand their research competitiveness, further develop the young talent they have and contribute more directly to meeting the scientific and technological challenges facing our nation.

EPSCoR/IDeA states educate thousands of scientists and engineers each year and have a wealth of secondary school talent that has often scored quite well on standardized math tests. Additionally, EPSCoR/IDeA states have many Truman and Goldwater Scholars, have growing research capabilities, are among the major energy-producing states, and are in the forefront of ocean and coastal research, fossil energy research and many other areas. Furthermore, most of our institutions are moving forward in the Carnegie Classifications. Many of these advancements are highlighted in a report, called *EPSCoR/IDeA: Building on the Past, Preparing for the Future: Innovative Science Across America, recently* released by the EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation.

Over the past few years, this Subcommittee has been very supportive of the EPSCoR program and for this we are very grateful. However, we believe now is the appropriate time for NSF to be particularly aggressive in increasing support for EPSCoR states and in integrating them more fully into the overall NSF agenda. An innovation strategy that ignores half the states and a fourth of the doctoral-granting institutions in our country is certain to fail.

We believe there are numerous actions NSF could undertake expeditiously to continue to reinvigorate the EPSCoR program. First, the report from the EPSCoR 2020 Workshop, supported by NSF in June 2006, recommended raising the NSF Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) awards from three-year/$3 million-per-year awards to five-year/$5 million-per-year awards.

These awards are the "core" of the EPSCoR program. NSF has moved to the five-year period but has yet to increase the amount of awards. Let me tell you why an increase is warranted, at least in some states. A $3 million award must first be reduced by amounts needed to fund a variety of requirements including evaluation, administration, educational outreach, access and other special efforts. The funds left must then often be divided among several institutions within a state. Ultimately, each institution may have somewhere around $1m -$1.25 million annually for actual research program enhancement. That $1m -$1.25 million simply does not buy the improvements and advancements required to grow research infrastructure and accelerate the rate of improvement in the EPSCoR states.

Second, the EPSCoR 2020 Workshop report endorses the transparent expansion of co-funding and cyberinfrastructure support. We believe co-funding can legitimately be expanded beyond the budget request and that there are cyberinfrastructure needs that are outlined in Dr. John Connolly's report on the EPSCoR Cyberinfrastructure Workshop, which was funded by the NSF. These needs include completing the Northern Tier link and expanding the workforce support and outreach to TERA Grid, the long-term benefits of which and return on investment would far outweigh any initial costs. Finally, we believe there are other support mechanisms that could be employed wisely in the EPSCoR states but which are not budgeted.

The EPSCoR program has been moved to NSF's Office of Integrative Activities (OIA) in order to better integrate it with on-going research activities at the foundation. The program has new leadership. We believe the EPSCoR program should have greater resources to allow the NSF to be both creative and aggressive in moving the EPSCoR states at a faster pace toward the level of research activity in the other half of the states.

For NASA EPSCoR in FY 2009, we are requesting an appropriation of $20.0 million.

NASA EPSCoR provides the opportunity for students and researchers in the EPSCoR states to become more involved in NASA research, and increases the base of U.S. researchers who participate and contribute to international space exploration and aerospace sciences research. Furthermore, NASA EPSCoR takes advantage of significantly underutilized expertise within the 27 participating jurisdictions. The expertise within these states is significant, yet the benefit of this expertise would be largely untapped without EPSCoR.

Last year, NASA made two key programmatic and administrative changes to its EPSCoR program. First, it increased the number of eligible states from 20 to 27 to be consistent with the NSF EPSCoR-designated states. Second, it changed its funding mechanism for Implementation awards. In the past, Implementation grants, which are competitively awarded, provided up to $750,000 over a three-year period. Under the new system, instead of allocating research dollars

on an annual basis, NASA is now fully funding Implementation awards in the first year. This policy change is resulting in fewer awards to the states for specific research projects. This policy is likely to have a particularly adverse effect on those states that are the "least competitive," marginalizing even further an already underfunded cohort. We estimate that only 7-10 research awards will be made if additional funding is not provided in FY 2009. This is significantly lower than the 23 Implementation awards made in FY 2007 and simply matches the 7-10 awards expected in FY 2008. Increased funding is needed to accommodate the seven new states in the program, to allow each state to win at least two or three Implementation awards, and to guarantee there is not an adverse impact on smaller states.

Now, let me turn to West Virginia.

As one of the five charter EPSCoR states, West Virginia has benefited greatly from its participation in this important program.

In 2001, West Virginia EPSCoR received a $9 million NSF Research Infrastructure Improvement grant. With the grant, academic leaders were hired to attract high-quality research faculty at our two primary research universities. Between 2002 and 2005, nine new faculty members were hired and have emerged as research leaders on their respective campuses.

In May 2006, West Virginia EPSCoR was awarded a new three-year research infrastructure grant, allowing us to build on the capacity established by the 2001 grant and providing 12 additional research faculty members.

One of the indicators of the resulting research capacity is that successful applications to Federal grant programs have shown a steady increase. In just five years, between 2001 and 2006, Federal awards in West Virginia rose from a little over $35 million to more than $86 million. In addition, *total* research expenditures at our colleges and universities rose from just over $79 million to nearly $149 million over the same five-year period. And we expect these upward trends to continue.

The successes of the research initiatives seeded by these EPSCoR infrastructure grants have persuaded policymakers at the state level to significantly increase the state's investment in research. More than ever, a true State-Federal partnership has been formed in this regard.

Since 2004, state legislators have dedicated a portion of racetrack video lottery revenue to the State's Research Challenge Fund. Over the past five years, the $8.4 million the State has invested in this program intended to support the creation of research centers and foster economic development and work force advancement has resulted in a substantial return on investment. In fact, the first six scientific research projects funded through the Research Challenge Grant program have leveraged external funding of more than $20 million and have resulted in five startup companies with five-year projected revenues of $124 million, 10 patent applications and five patents. Two of the startup companies—Protea Biosciences LLC in Morgantown and Vandalia Research Inc. in Huntington—estimate they will be hiring 295 additional employees in the next five years. In addition, two university research centers with industry partners were formed and one production facility is under development.

We could not be more pleased of the positive and significant impact the Research Challenge Grant program has had. We were able to exceed our initial expectations for this program, sponsoring innovative research at our two research institutions and greatly improving their ability to be competitive for Federal funding on the national level. These are the kind of results that help policymakers justify a continued investment in research.

And that is not nearly all. Last year, Governor Joe Manchin and the state legislature set aside $10 million in additional funding to help build the research programs at West Virginia University (WVU) and Marshall University. I'm pleased to report that in just a few months, both WVU and Marshall have raised the required dollar-for-dollar private matches to receive their share of this funding. Both institutions are using the money to support research professors working on some of the most challenging health issues facing our state and nation—breast cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease—as well as new forms of energy and energy use.

Last but certainly not least, today West Virginia is poised to take a huge leap forward in its efforts to develop a new, prosperous and diverse economy based on a highly skilled and educated workforce.

Just a few weeks ago, on March 8, the West Virginia Legislature passed a bill to create a research trust fund that will match $50 million from surplus state revenue with private donations to encourage university research and leverage private giving. Governor Manchin proposed the initiative in his State of the State address in January, saying the investment would be necessary for West Virginia to stimulate world-class research and development and to reap the related benefits of high-tech, high-wage industries.

The goal of the trust fund, which is similar to successful programs in other states, is to strengthen the most-promising research departments at Marshall and WVU, ultimately leading to business spin-offs, new patents and job creation. The presidents of both universities say they have donors lined up and are ready to immediately start raising the money required to draw down an equal amount of this "Bucks for Brains" funding.

None of this significant progress in our state would have been possible without the initial support received through NSF's EPSCoR program. Without question, the EPSCoR grants were the catalyst for these recent commitments to improving our state's research capacity and, ultimately, ensuring a brighter future for all West Virginians.

Every state, their students and their citizens have important contributions to make to the nation's competitiveness. The 25 states and two jurisdictions that make up EPSCoR represent 20 percent of the U.S. population, 25 percent of the research and doctoral universities, and 18 percent of the nation's scientists and engineers. We believe in the value and power of EPSCoR—both as a catalyst for improvement within our respective states and as a contributor to America's increased competitiveness in the global economy.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to address the Subcommittee today. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you, Doctor Hill. I appreciate again your testimony and also the excellent work you are doing back in West Virginia promoting research.

Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you.

Next the Committee would like to welcome Mr. Jason Patlis of the World Wildlife Fund. Mr. Patlis, welcome to the hearing today.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008

NOAA

WITNESS

JASON PATLIS, VICE PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

Mr. PATLIS. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, for the chance to testify before you today on 2009 Appropriations for Commerce, Justice and Science.

My name is Jason Patlis. And I am Vice President for Government Relations to the World Wildlife Fund.

The breadth of this Subcommittee's jurisdiction is really extraordinary. And our work at World Wildlife Fund is the conservation of natural resources and the scientific research upon which that depends is critically dependent on your funding and your support across so many of the programs under your jurisdiction.

Even though these programs relate more directly to commerce than science, conservation is really one of the true beneficiaries of all of this work.

My written testimony includes a full list of our priorities. And ask that be submitted for the record. I will use my few minutes to highlight just two items.

One is the important synergies and linkages across several fisheries programs within the National Marine Fisheries Service or NMFS under NOAA. And the second will be a couple of points on climate change, science, and research.

Sustainability of our nation's and in fact the world's fisheries really depends on a number of complementary programs within NMFS, each of which require adequate funding. Without which the funding of one will compromise the implementation of the other.

And this is not just a question of good policy, it is a question of legal requirements, in particular under the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization that was enacted into law last year.

In particular, that law requires, as mentioned by an earlier witness, to end overfishing by 2011. To implement the new law and that requirement in particular, which will drive sustainability among the nation's fisheries, WWF requests that the Fisheries Research and Management Program be funded at $40 million, an increase from $32 million last year.

Complementing this work on management and research is enforcement. Illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, IUU fishing as it is known, particularly on the high seas, it is a major problem affecting sustainability. And can easily nullify all of the fund-

ing and all of the work that goes into management of legal fisheries activities. We recommend $57.1 million for this.

As with research, management, and enforcement, sustainability also depends on bycatch issues. Bycatch includes non-target species such as sun fish, birds, sea turtles, sharks, marine mammals. Some of WWF's most creative work and successful work in conjunction with NMFS is in bycatch reduction using and disseminating new technologies. The technologies exist. But what we need is the funding and the capacity to extend that. And we request $5 million for that program under NMFS.

The fourth pillar of sustainability rests in conservation of endangered and threatened species, not under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, but more under the ESA and the NMPA.

And much of WWF's work that covers the breadth of the oceans throughout the world, North Pacific white whales in the Arctic, to the endangered species of porpoise in the gulf of California, to the sea turtles in the Caribbean and in the Indo-Pacific. All of that is benefitted by NMFS's work across the globe.

Specifically, we recommend marine mammal conservation funded at $82 million and sea turtle conservation funded at $26 million, both of which double the numbers from last year.

A couple of other programs I will just highlight that really underscore NMFS's work. One is in the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, which was proposed for cuts of 40 percent, and yet is one of NMFS's most successful partnerships, working with conservation groups, states, local governments, and fishermen. We propose that that be funded at last year's level at $67 million.

Coral reef conservation programs, Jeff Trandahl here talked about his work under the Foundation. The Foundation, one of the implementing programs managed by the Foundation is the Coral Reef Conservation Fund managed and authorized under NOAA's jurisdiction.

It is primarily funded for domestic programs. But the preamble and breadth of the law cover global coral reef conservation. And we would encourage that be funded at $35 million. But with the real focus on international coral reefs, which need—which really need the resources.

Let me just talk on the Climate Change Science Program, which covers NSF, NOAA, NASA, and DOE. The Climate Change Science Program is the major vehicle for our nation's science-based climate—our nation's science-based knowledge on climate change. Thirteen agencies participate in it, of which four agencies command 90 percent of the budget.

Given the profound challenge that climate change presents, WWF requests that the overall CCSP program be returned to its peak level of funding in 1995, which would bring it to about $2.4 billion in today's—in today's terms, if not further increase beyond that.

Congressional reform of that program is underway in the Senate through legislation introduced by Senators Kerry and Snowe. And while the U.S. debates on how to handle mitigation, how to handle cap and trade, there is a tremendous amount that the U.S. government could be doing to address climate change in more non-con-

troversial but equally important ways. And that is through climate chance, science, and research.

And even as we struggle with mitigation, funding that program would allow the U.S. to gain much in science. And it would offer much to the rest of the world addressing these issues.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify. I will be happy to answer any questions.

[Written testimony of Jason Patlis, Vice President and Managing Director, World Wildlife Fund.]

Testimony of Jason M. Patlis,
Vice President and Managing Director
World Wildlife Fund
Before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies of the House Appropriations Committee
April 2, 2008

On behalf of the World Wildlife Fund's 1.2 million members, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony before this Subcommittee on the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations for Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is dedicated to protecting the world's wildlife and the rich biological diversity on which our survival and prosperity depend. WWF has been the leading privately supported conservation organization for over 45 years and is the largest multinational conservation organization in the world, sponsoring more than 2000 projects in over 100 countries. WWF appreciates this Subcommittee's support in the current fiscal year (FY 2008) in funding many important environmental programs critical to the success of WWF's work that are administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). This testimony will highlight requests for several programs of strategic interest to WWF: (1) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Fisheries Research and Management ($40 million); (2) NMFS Protected Species Research and Management ($82 million for mammals and $26 million for marine turtles); (3) NMFS Fisheries Enforcement ($57.1 million); (4) NMFS Bycatch Reduction and Monitoring ($5 million); (5) NMFS International Affairs ($5 million); (6) NMFS Antarctic Marine Living Resources Program ($5.6 million); (7) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund ($67 million); (8) NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Programs ($35 million); (9) Climate Change Research Program ($2.4 billion). Consistent with funding of these programs, WWF would also like to see funding for NOAA increased overall, to $4.5 billion in FY 2009 from $3.92 billion in FY 2008.

NMFS – Fisheries Research and Management

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSFCMRA) creates new mandates in order to end overfishing in all fisheries by 2011. NOAA's FY 2009 budget request increases funding to implement the reauthorized act, but the increases fall short of what is needed to achieve MSFCMRA's ambitious new requirements. The eight regional fishery management councils will need to develop annual catch limits for all U.S. fisheries by 2011 alongside measures to ensure accountability, and the most reliable basis for these limits is information from qualitative stock assessments. NOAA has requested a 23% funding increase for this program in FY 2009, but NOAA's own analysis shows that this increase is inadequate and would allow the assessment of less than 60% of the 230 major fish stocks comprising the Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI). WWF requests that this program be funded at $40 million in FY 2009, up from $32 million in FY 2008, keeping in mind that additional funding increases will be necessary beyond FY 2009 in order to ensure the assessment of all 230 major fish stocks as required by MSFCMRA. WWF also requests $400,000 for planning studies to support development and implementation of traceability through catch documentation schemes that enable demand-based pressure for fisheries to be managed sustainability, and $600,000 for planning studies on ways to redevelop Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to more successfully control capacity and align fisheries

management actions with sustainability. To meet the goals and requirements of MSFCMRA, WWF recommends substantial increases for NMFS amounting to $62.6 million dollars above the President's budget request and totaling $242.6 million in FY 2009.

NMFS – Fisheries Enforcement

WWF supports NOAA's request to increase funding for the Fisheries Enforcement program, and recommends an slightly higher increase to $57.1 million in FY 2009 from $53.4 million in FY 2008, including a $1.1 million net increase for the Enforcement and Surveillance budget line in order to fulfill MSFCMRA's requirement to address Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing on the high seas. Included in this would be $18.3 million for Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to monitor and enforce protected areas for ocean wildlife and habitat. These increases are modest, and greater commitments of funding for enforcement will be needed in future years in order to meet MSFCMRA mandates to improve catch accounting and monitor annual catch limit compliance in all regions and fisheries.

NMFS – Protected Species Research and Management

Marine Mammals: NMFS is primarily responsible for managing marine mammals under both the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NMFS' Office of Protected Resources needs increased funding for marine mammal programs including activities relating to critical stock assessments, stock identification and abundance, and fishery bycatch. Thirty six marine mammal stocks currently lack assessments as to whether the populations are healthy, declining, or depleted. In the Bering Sea, WWF is working to save the highly endangered North Pacific Right Whale, seeking to designate critical habitat, pushing for improved shipping safety, and protecting the whales from offshore oil and gas development in Bristol Bay. In the Gulf of California, WWF leads a coalition of local and international organizations working alongside the Mexican government to phase out gillnet fishing and prevent bycatch of vaquitas, an endangered species of porpoise. WWF recommends that funding for the Protected Resources Research and Management Programs for mammals be restored to the FY 2005 enacted level of $82 million, including $10 million for the Marine Mammal Initiative, a doubling of funds from the FY 2008 level of $40.4 million.

Marine Turtles: Six sea turtle species are either endangered or critically endangered, and populations continue to decline worldwide. Sea turtles populations face threats from poaching, habitat destruction, and fisheries bycatch. With support from NOAA, WWF has engaged in turtle conservation activities in the Caribbean's Mesoamerican Reef and Southeast Asia's Coral Triangle, encouraging communities to engage in turtle-based ecotourism and reducing turtle bycatch in local fisheries. NMFS requires additional resources to conduct sea turtle stock assessments, protect important habitat, and support fisheries observers. WWF requests $26 million for this line item for FY 2009, up from $13.7 million in FY 2008, including increases in the following: $1 million for in-water index sampling programs for long-term trend monitoring; $1 million for improving sea turtle population assessments and related data; $1 million for gear research for bycatch reduction in Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico fisheries; $2 million for grant funding for state projects under ESA Section 6 Agreements; $3 million in support for international research, management and capacity building.

NMFS - Bycatch Reduction and Monitoring

Activities to address bycatch of sea turtles, birds, marine mammals, cetaceans and non-target fish species in fishing gear are grossly underfunded. This trend continues in the President's FY 2009 budget request, which increases funding for these programs by only $567,000. WWF has successfully partnered with NMFS on several efforts to reduce this serious threat to marine living resources. With the help of NOAA funding, WWF has helped prevent marine turtle bycatch in longline fisheries in the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia through deployment of improved fishing gears and techniques and the development of strategic partnerships among the fishing industry, government officials and conservation groups. WWF's Bering Sea Program in the Russian Far East is reducing bycatch of seabirds, such as the endangered short-tailed albatross, that often results from longline fishing. The program is working to install paired streamers line in 30 percent of the Russian Far East longline fleet by 2008 to inexpensively frighten away seabirds from baited fishing lines and reduce economic losses to fishermen. WWF also partners with NOAA Fisheries to sponsor the International Smart Gear Competition and bring together the fishing industry, research institutes, universities, and government, to reward practical, innovative fishing gear designs to reduce bycatch. In order to prevent bycatch, collect and process reliable bycatch information and develop fishing gear technologies mandated under MSFCMRA's Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program, NMFS requires more funding. WWF requests that bycatch reduction and monitoring programs be funded at $5 million in FY 2009, an increase from $2.8 million in FY 2008. We also ask that these funds include $500,000 to deal with severe bycatch issues in far Western Pacific tuna fisheries and $200,000 to fund an international competition promoting industry-developed bycatch reduction technologies.

NMFS – International Affairs

WWF recognizes that funding for international marine conservation cuts across many program offices within NMFS. At the same time, WWF requests that funding specifically be increased for those programs administered by NMFS' Office of International Affairs in support of its critical but underfunded efforts to conserve and manage international transboundary fish stocks, straddling and shared fish stocks, and highly migratory species. Increased funding is needed to implement Title IV of MSFCMRA and to fund a surplus of worthy project proposals. In 2007, NMFS International Affairs received $1.6 million in project proposals but was only able to fund a third of these due to lack of available funds. NMFS also participates in international agreements and supports U.S. participation on international commissions for living marine resources, including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), a new regional fisheries management organization responsible for conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks. Robust funding is required in order for NMFS to carry out stock assessment research and data collection in support of the United States' MSFCMRA-mandated involvement in the WCPFC, to allow NMFS to implement its responsibilities under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's fish stocks through the use of the best available scientific data. WWF requests that $3 million be allocated for NMFS participation in the WCPFC ($2 million more than the President's request), to be divided between the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California and the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. WWF also requests an additional $2 million for the Southwest Fisheries Science Center to collect data and conduct Pacific-wide

research on North Pacific Bluefin Tuna in collaboration with several Asian countries, Mexico, and Stanford University.

NMFS International - Antarctic Marine Living Resources Program

The Antarctic Marine Living Resources (AMLR) Program, mandated by the Antarctic Marine Resources Act of 1984 and administered by NMFS, provides the information needed to develop and support U.S. policy for managing and conserving Antarctic marine living resources and supports U.S. participation the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). AMLR research includes ship-based surveys of krill and fish populations, by-catch analyses, and land-based monitoring of fur seal and penguin populations. The continuous monitoring of these protected resource populations provides invaluable observation data on the physical and biological conditions in the waters surrounding the Antarctic Peninsula, and the data generated over thirty years is an invaluable tool not only for managing this important ecosystem but also for benchmarking the effects of climate change in the Antarctic environment. The AMLR Program currently receives less than the minimum funding it needs in order to execute its basic research plan and allow NOAA to provide scientific advice to the Department of State and the CCAMLR. Continuing AMLR data collection is critical to sustainable management of the Antarctic's living resources, and additional funding is needed to support accurate monitoring of climate change and its effects. In FY 2008, the AMLR Program received $3 million from NOAA's *Antarctic Research* budget line. WWF requests this amount be increased to $3.6 million in FY 2009 to maintain the basic research plan, plus an additional $2 million for needed climate change research, bringing the total request for the AMLR Program to $5.6 million for FY 2009.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Twenty-six of the 51 salmon and steelhead stocks on the West Coast are categorized as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) was established by Congress in 2000 to help restore and conserve Pacific salmon and steelhead populations and their habitats in the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho and Alaska. The PCSRF is a highly successful grant program and an indispensible source of funding for states and Pacific Coastal and Columbia River Native American communities that rely on salmon fishing, salmon processing and associated industries to support local economies. States and tribes match the grants they receive from NMFS with their own dollars, use the funds to restore fish essential habitat. Since PCSRF was created, sixteen ESA-listed salmon stocks have stabilized or increased their populations and grants from the Fund have helped restore over 500,000 acres of salmon and steelhead habitat. However, despite the success of this program and its importance to the future of West Coast salmon stocks and the local communities that depend on them, the President's budget request cuts funding for the PCSRF in half, from $67 million in FY 2008 to a mere $35 million in FY 2009. Given the program's successful track record and the pressing needs it addresses, WWF strongly opposes this cut and recommends that, at minimum, funding for the PCSRF be restored to FY 2008 levels, and optimally, that it be significantly increased beyond last year's level.

NOAA - Coral Reef Conservation Programs

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) works to reduce human impacts on coral reefs and restore resilient reef environments. WWF has received several CRCP grants supporting its work to conserve coral reefs in priority ecoregions, including the Mesoamerican Reef, Coastal East Africa and Southeast Asia's Coral Triangle. WWF's programs have created networks of marine protected areas, encouraged local fishermen to adopt sustainable fishing practices, and promoted the development of ecotourism to benefit communities through sustainable resource management. In 2007, WWF played a key role in launching the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), a partnership between the governments of six Southeast Asian nations endorsed by President Bush and backed up by international funding that seeks to conserve the extraordinary diversity and abundance of the region's marine life. Given the global importance of coral reefs and their increasing vulnerability to climate change effects, WWF requests that funding for the Coral Reef Conservation Program be increased to $35 million in FY 2009 from $29.3 million in FY 2008 and international coral conservation efforts continue to receive robust funding. Building on this international component, a reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act that passed out of the Senate Commerce committee in December 2007 creates a new International Coral Reef Program to address the growing threats these marine ecosystems face, including climate change and ocean acidification. WWF asks that funding under the CRCA be directed to international coral reef conservation, commensurate with the interest expressed by Congress and the President.

US Climate Change Science Program, including: NASA – Earth Science Research, NOAA-Climate Research, and NSF- Climate Research

The Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) provides science-based knowledge to predict climate change, manage risk, and conduct research to deepen our understanding of the interplay between human activity and the climate system. Thirteen agencies participate in the CCSP, though four main agencies command 90% of the program's budget: NSF, NOAA, NASA and the Department of Energy (DOE). Congressional reform of the program is underway in the form of legislation sponsored by Senators Kerry and Snowe. Funding for the program reached its peak in 1995 while concern over the pace and complexity of climate change has only grown. Given the profound challenge of climate change, WWF requests that overall CCSP funding be returned to at the 1995 level at minimum (the equivalent of $2.4 billion in real dollars). This should include a restoration of NOAA-supported research on abrupt climate change. WWF also requests that, within NASA's Earth Science budget, research funding increase to at least keep pace with other parts of the budget, such as funding for satellite observations. Additional resources should be made available specifically for Earth Science research in order to ensure that climate data is being interpreted and disseminated accurately and efficiently. Also, the CCSP provides for coordination of U.S. climate change research and outreach and for continuous feedback from users regarding the research agenda of and information generated by the Program through a Global Change Research Information Office. WWF requests that this Subcommittee ensure that the necessary funds are available so that federal climate change research and information can be accurately and efficiently distributed to potential users and the public. This includes maintaining funding for NOAA's data distribution centers, and enhancing funding specifically for researchers at universities, think tanks, and laboratories to participate in future climate change assessments and decision support activities.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you for your testimony. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you for your testimony.

Mr. PATLIS. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. The Committee would like to welcome Mr. Billy Frank, Jr. who will testify on behalf of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. So, Frank, welcome to the hearing.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

DOC

WITNESS

BILLY FRANK, JR., CHAIRMAN, NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

Mr. FRANK. Good morning. I am glad to see you two boys. I have been here 30 years now testifying in the United States Congress representing tribes. You boys have a big job ahead of you. You have been a long day here. And it is kind of a mission impossible. You know, you hear all the complaints of our country, our great country, and our infrastructure.

And now I am telling you a little bit about our natural resource and what we do out in the great Northwest and on the Pacific, along the Pacific Coast and the whole range of managing that resource out there, which is very important to all of our country.

I am Billy Frank, Jr. I am Chairman of the Northwest Indian Fish Commission, which represents the 20 tribes in the great Northwest in the State of Washington. And that arrived out of the United States v. Washington. It was called the Boldt decision of litigation in 1974.

The Northwest Indian Fish Commission is just an arm of the 20 tribes in the Pacific Northwest and along the Pacific Coast. I have with me today Ed Johnstone a member and Commissioner for the Northwest Indian Fish Commission, and Jim Anderson here. He is my ex-director. He is trying to retire. But he is back here with us today.

We are here to support the NOAA budget to seek your support of some special funding to the region for the salmon recovery and the ocean ecosystem management. Specifically, we ask for your help with Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. And that is $110 million with $9 million to the Northwest Indian Fish Commission and our tribes.

These funds allow our tribes to help the federal government meet their endangered species requirements as well as the sustained salmon populations that are essential to tribal treaty rights.

You know, we are involved in all management with the State of Washington, federal government, and the local people. We are collaborators. We work 24 hours a day on all of our watersheds in the Northwest. Our infrastructure within the tribes are all in place. And we work with the State of Washington and the federal government as partnerships and particularly NOAA and the ocean.

So we are here to support the ecosystem management, which is $3.17 million. And that is the four coastal tribes along the Pacific

Ocean and to support them defend the ocean resource and their livelihoods.

I just wanted to add, you guys know Congressman Norm Dicks. And he is our Congressman out there. I asked for a submarine. I said, "Norm, do you have a submarine, a surplus submarine? You know, I need one along that coast." He said, "I only got nuclear submarines."

Mr. MOLLOHAN. That would have been okay, wouldn't it?

Mr. FRANK. Yeah, that would work. We don't need any rockets or anything. We want to go down and look at the bottom of that ocean and manage it. It is very important that we all get out there and do it. I know NOAA has got a new ship. And we are working side by side and mapping and all of them things. So that is good.

The Intergovernmental Policy Council is—was formed. It is an Intergovernmental Policy Council with the State of Washington National Marine Sanctuary Program along the Pacific Coast. And it is a program that the tribes, and the state, and the federal government has put together along with the parks and all of our people along the Pacific Coast. And it is a very important program that we support for our tribes along the Pacific Coast.

Rockfish assessment and habitat mapping studies, we strongly related to the IPS—IPC's request is our need for monies to conduct two multi-year studies to assess rockfish population and to conduct deep-water habitat mapping, along with working with NOAA out there now. And looking at a lot of the bottom of the ocean.

As I told you last year, we have them dead zones along the ocean now. And we had them for five years. And this year they are saying they are coming back again along the State of Washington and along Oregon. And they are moving down south toward Sacramento River.

We see our resources declining along that—there is something wrong with the ocean. And our salmon when they go out into the ocean they don't—we have tracked them. And we don't know where. They don't come back. Sacramento River, everything below the Columbia River in the State of Oregon south to the Sacramento River is—there are very few fish coming back in that area now along the Pacific Coast.

So all of this is important to what we do, and management, and never give up on our habitat, even though we have the global warming. We see the temperatures and things changing out there along the ocean, the up wells and everything, the cold water that comes along the coast from the Arctic Ocean clear down. We see a lot of changes going on.

But we just—we keep moving forward and stay the course of managing our resource. So we are here to just support NOAA and their endeavor to get the budget.

And this Appropriation Committee, I want to thank you for us all being here today. And you taking the time to listen to us. It is so important that we come to Washington. And be able to testify like this, and get it on the record, and tell a little bit of our story of what we do, and what we have been doing, and what we will do on into the future for the next 100 years. So thank you very much.

[Written testimony of Billy Frank, Jr., Chairman, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.]

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
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ORAL TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
ON THE FY 2009 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BY BILLY FRANK, JR., CHAIRMAN
THE NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION
April 2, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before this Committee and provide oral testimony on the Department of Commerce FY 2009 appropriations. My name is Billy Frank, and I am the Chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC). The NWIFC is made up of the twenty Tribes party to the *United States vs. Washington* litigation. The NWIFC supports an increase in funding over that proposed by the Administration for both the NOAA Fisheries and the NOAA-National Ocean Service (NOS) budgets. These budgets should, at a minimum, be that of the FY-2006 enacted levels, with additional monies as described below that support key Federal and State partnerships with the twenty (20) Treaty Indian Tribes in Western Washington.

SUMMARY OF FY 2009 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

NWIFC Specific Requests:

- **$110 Million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund with a $9 million allocation for the twenty (20) affected Treaty Tribes and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in Western Washington for their management responsibilities** ***(NOAA/National Marine Fisheries)***

- **$ 3.17 million for the Tribal Ocean Ecosystem Initiative** ***(NOAA/National Ocean Service)***

Justification of Requests:

$110 Million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund with a $9 million allocation for the twenty (20) affected Treaty Tribes in Western Washington and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) is a multi-state, multi-tribe program established by Congress in FY-2000 with a primary goal to help recover wild salmon throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. The PCSRF seeks to aid the conservation, restoration and sustainability of Pacific salmon and their habitats by financially supporting and leveraging local and regional efforts. Recognizing the need for flexibility among Tribes and the States to respond to salmon recovery priorities in their watersheds, Congress earmarked the funds for salmon habitat restoration, salmon stock enhancement, salmon research, and implementation of the 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement, as well as related agreements. PCSRF is making a significant contribution to the recovery of wild salmon throughout the region.

The Tribes' objectives for use of the PCSRF is to restore and protect essential habitat that promotes the recovery of ESA listed Puget Sound Chinook, Hood Canal Summer chum, Puget Sound steelhead, Lake Ozette sockeye, and other salmon populations in the Puget Sound and Washington Coast. These species are essential for Western Washington Tribes to exercise their treaty-reserved fishing rights consistent with *U.S. vs. Washington* and *Hoh vs. Baldrige*. These funds will support policy and technical capacities within Tribal resource management departments to plan, implement, and monitor recovery activities.

Since the program's inception, Pacific Coastal Tribes, including the 20 Treaty Tribes in Western Washington, have used PCSRF monies to remove 79 fish passage barriers—open access to 47 stream miles; restore 282 miles of instream habitat; restore 747 acres and 113 stream miles of riparian habitat; restore 129 acres of wetland habitat and protect 288 acres of habitat through land acquisition, easement or lease. The Tribes are also using these funds to implement the recovery plan for ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook recently approved by NOAA.

Unfortunately, the PCSRF monies have decreased over the past few years from the original amount of $110 million that was appropriated in 2000 to $67 million in 2008. In the FY 2009 budget proposal the Administration seeks to further decrease funding to $35 million for this very important program. The Tribes originally were slated to receive 10% of the overall amount, but with the declining base, the Tribal amount has dwindled precipitously. Restoration of these monies to the $110 million level will support the original intent of Congress and enable the Federal government to fill its obligations to salmon recovery and the Tribes.

$ 3.17 million for Tribal Ocean Ecosystem Initiative from the National Ocean Service

The Hoh River Tribe, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation have deep connections to the marine resources off the coast of Washington. They have pioneered cooperative partnerships with the State of Washington and the Federal government in an effort to advance the management practices in the coastal waters. However, to be an effective partnership, the Tribes and their partners need additional funding. These requests are as follows:

Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) $1.10 million

The four Tribes, the State of Washington and NOAA National Ocean Service, through the Marine Sanctuary Program, have formed the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC). The IPC is intended to strengthen management partnerships through coordination and focus of work efforts. Through this partnership, the entities hope to maximize resource protection and management, while respecting existing jurisdictional and management authorities. While the IPC has received some funding from the Marine Sanctuary Program, the current funding does not provide for full participation in activities that will build the partnerships necessary to coordinate management and research activities within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

For the IPC to continue to expand its capacity for program operations, technical staff participation and development of collaborative research efforts, long-term program funding is needed. The four coastal treaty Indian Tribes, the State of Washington and the Olympic Marine Sanctuary needs $1.10 million in FY-2009 to support their IPC efforts to transition into an ocean ecosystem-based management system.

As existing marine resource management transitions to an ecosystem-based management approach, a forum and coordinating body such as the IPC will need the capacity to collect and organize information that will propel discussions and recommendations into decisions and actions.

Rockfish Assessment and Habitat Mapping $2.07 million

The Hoh River Tribe, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation and the state hope to conduct a five-year ocean monitoring and research initiative to support and transition into an ecosystem-based management of rockfish. The proposal would augment the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration existing Northwest Science Center trawl survey data with additional State and Tribal survey data from areas currently not sampled on the continental shelf and slope. It would also expand the existing groundfish port sampling program for the region. Both of these data sources are essential to evaluate stock status and abundance. Finally, it would accomplish a comprehensive assessment of the coastal ecosystem and its associated species groups.

Effective management of the ocean ecosystem and its associated resources requires the development of baseline information against which changes can be measured. This initiative will expand on and complement existing physical and biological databases to enhance ecosystem-based management capabilities. In turn, this will support ongoing efforts by the State and Tribes to become more actively engaged in the management of offshore fishery resources. Transition to ecosystem-based management requires expansion of the current resource assessment surveys and ocean monitoring systems off the Olympic coast.

Effective conservation actions for rockfish and other groundfish species will depend on accurate knowledge and distribution of sea-floor habitat types and species found within the region. The establishment of this finer-scale biological database is an essential step toward improving the region's forecasting capability of stock status and abundance.

The partners hope to:

- Conduct a comprehensive stock assessment of rockfish resources found along the continental shelf and slope off the Olympic coast and enhance the existing groundfish port sampling efforts

- Convene a State, Tribal and Federal technical workgroup to develop the sampling protocols and assessment methodologies necessary to incorporate this additional survey information into the annual Federal stock assessment and forecasting process

- Increase biological sampling through the expansion of State and Tribal port sampling in Westport, La Push and Neah Bay to ensure complete coverage of all groundfish fisheries (such as sablefish, flatfish and lingcod), of which rockfish are a component of the catch

- Complete multi-beam side-scan sonar mapping and surveying of the seabed off the Olympic coast in cooperation and partnership with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

- Collaborate on a research plan with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and assist in completing the sonar mapping of seafloor relief and substrate

- Develop a State and Tribal collaborative effort to address emerging ecosystem management concerns such as the status and abundance of deep-water coral and sponge communities that benefit the entire region.

The economic value associated with effective marine resource protection is huge. Not only are marine areas crucial for our natural resources and those that use them; they are bridges of commerce between nations and continents. Healthy oceans are essential if we value stable climates that will sustain our economies and our lives. Tribes must be partners in the efforts to research, clean up and restore the environs necessary to deal with identified problems.

BACKGROUND

When our ancestors signed treaties, ceding millions of acres of land to the United States government, they reserved fishing, hunting and gathering rights in all traditional areas. These Constitutionally-protected treaties, the Federal Trust Responsibility and extensive case law, including the U.S. vs. Washington Decision of 1974, all consistently support the role of Tribes as natural resource managers, on and off reservation. In Washington State, these provisions have developed into a generally successful co-management process between the Federal, State and Tribal governments. The co-management route is the one and only path that leads to true sustainability in our region, and is the tool that must be used to meet the many environmental challenges we face, such as polluted and over-appropriated waters, species decline and climate change. Treaties are nation-to-nation accords, and Tribes have always been outstanding natural resource managers and stewards of the land.

However, the Federal government has chosen to cut funding to natural resource management programs over the past six years. There is no question that this jeopardizes the bond of trust between our governments. It also jeopardizes management programs and infrastructure critically important to co-management and to the health and vitality of natural resources, and the Tribal and non-tribal people they sustain. The timing of funding cuts could not have been worse. We are facing many environmental and natural resource management challenges in the Pacific Northwest, caused by human population expansion and urban sprawl, increased pollution problems ranging from storm water runoff to de-oxygenated or "dead" areas in the Hood Canal, parts of Puget Sound and in the Pacific Ocean. The pathway to the future is clear to us. The Federal, State and Tribal governments must strengthen our bond and move forward, together, with the determination and vigor it will take to preserve our heritage. Together, we must focus on the needs of our children, with an eye on the lessons of the past.

OUR MESSAGE

Our message to you now is that achieving such objectives requires adequate funding. The Tribes strive to implement their co-management authority and responsibility through cooperative and collaborative relationships with the State and local communities. We constantly seek ways to restore and manage these precious natural resources in a manner that can be supported by all who

live in this area. The work the Tribes do benefits all the citizens of the State of Washington, the region and the nation. But the increasing challenges I have described and the growing demand for our participation in natural resource/environmental management requires increased investments of time, energy and funding. Restoring and protecting these natural resources is essential to the economy and the quality of life that is so valued by those who live in the Northwest.

We are sensitive to the budget challenges that Congress faces. We recognize that this Administration has greatly reduced the allocation to discretionary domestic spending during the last several years, which makes it increasingly difficult to address the many requests you receive. Still, we urge you to maintain and increase the allocation and appropriations for priority ecosystem management initiatives. The need for an ecosystem-based management approach for Washington's marine waters have come into sharp focus in recent years with major studies by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Charitable Trust. In its report, "An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century," the Ocean Commission essentially concluded that the oceans are sick, and estimated the costs for reversing declines and restoring coasts and oceans nationwide at about $4 billion annually. Follow through on that report has obviously not approached that level of investment—and it might not for some time. But, for the sake of sustainable health, economies and the natural heritage of this resource, it is critically important for Congress to do more than it has, and to direct Federal agencies to do even more to coordinate their efforts with State and Tribal governments.

As frequently attributed to Chief Seattle (Sealth), Tribes believe all things are connected. That is why we believe only through a holistic ecosystem management approach can we find success in achieving a healthy environment and robust natural resources. However, all of this requires adequate funding.

CONCLUSION

Clearly, Western Washington Tribes are leaders in the Northwest salmon recovery effort. The Tribes possess the legal authority, technical and policy expertise, and effective programs to address impacts on wild salmon from harvest and hatcheries.

The Tribes are strategically located in each of the major watersheds, and no other group of people is more knowledgeable about the natural resources than the Tribes. No one else so deeply depends on the resource for their cultural, spiritual and economic survival. Tribes seize every opportunity to coordinate with other governments, and non-governmental entities, to avoid duplication, maximize positive impacts and emphasize the application of holistic ecosystem management. We continue to participate in resource recovery and habitat restoration on an equal level with the State of Washington and the Federal government because we understand the great value of such cooperation.

We ask that Congress help us in our efforts to protect and restore our great natural heritage and support our funding requests. Thank you.

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BILLY FRANK, JR.

Billy Frank, Jr., has spent much of his life advocating for human rights for all, particularly the Indian people of western Washington. He has been the Chairman and Spokesperson for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in Olympia, Washington since 1977 and serves as a key representative to the 20 treaty tribes of western Washington on fisheries concerns. A Nisqually Tribal member, Billy grew up fishing for salmon and steelhead on the Nisqually River, and he was on the front line when the battle over treaty-guaranteed Indian fishing rights erupted in the 1960s and '70s. His perseverance landed him in jail more than 40 times, but this also helped guarantee Indian fishing rights when the "Boldt Decision" was made in the late 1970s. Cooperation – not confrontation – is what Billy advocates now. As Chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), Billy has worked to achieve a number of key agreements between the tribes and various local, state and federal officials that further strengthen treaty-guaranteed fishing rights and environmental protection laws. His involvement in arenas like the unique Timber-Fish-Wildlife Agreement, the Chelan Agreement (a water resources planning document), and the Centennial Accord have placed Billy in a powerful leadership role for Indians and non-Indians alike on matters of Natural Resources. It's a leadership role that's been recognized from Olympia, Washington to Washington, D.C.

RECOGNITIONS

Recipient, November 2006, The Seventh Generation Legacy Leadership Award, acknowledges the great importance of team spirit between tribal and non-tribal communities…"
Recipient, November 2006, The Center of the American West's Wallace Stegner Award given to those who faithfully and evocatively depicted the spirit of the American West
Recipient, (June) 2006, Daniel J. Evans Nisqually Stewardship Award, recognition for working to preserve the Nisqually River, Nisqually River Foundation
Recipient, 2006, "Horace Mann Awards," by Antioch University, honoring individuals who have won victories for humanity and volunteerism.
Recipient, 2005, "Environmental Hero," by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, given to individuals or organizations that volunteer their time and energy to help NOAA carry out its mission.
Recipient, 2004 Masters of Public Administration/Masters of Environmental Studies, Honorary Degree, The Evergreen State College
Recipient, 2004 Doctor of Laws, Honorary Degree, University of Puget Sound
Recipient, 2004 Leadership Award, Spirit of the Salmon Fund, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Recipient, 2004 American Indian Visionary Award, Indian Country Today, given for exceptional contributions to American Indian Freedom
Recipient, 1992 Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism
Recipient, 1990 Martin Luther King, Jr., Distinguished Service Award for Humanitarian Achievement
Recipient, 1987 Washington State Environmental Excellence Award from State Ecological Commission, received award on behalf of participating tribes
Recipient, 1989 American Indian Distinguished Service Award
Recipient, 1985 Common Cause Award, National recognition for efforts in human rights

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Well, Chairman Frank, thank you for coming to Washington.

Mr. FRANK. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. It is a long way for you to come. And we appreciate your testimony, which is expert testimony. You are the people who have lived out there. You are working it every day. And you are working with Chairman Norm Dicks.

Mr. FRANK. Yes.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And believe me, he is a champion for this program.

Mr. FRANK. Yeah.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. And I really appreciate your efforts here today. And we appreciate your efforts, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. FRANK. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you, Mr. Frank.

Mr. FRANK. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. By my record, the Committee would like to welcome its final witness today, unless I have missed somebody, Kyle Prior. Mr. Prior, if you would join us. Mr. Prior will be testifying on behalf of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Thank you, Mr. Prior. Welcome.

Mr. PRIOR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Subcommittee for inviting me today to testify on behalf of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. And as Chairman of the tribe, the issue I bring to you today affects all in the country. And I thank you for taking time to consider tribal issues.

The Department of Justice plays an important role in providing law enforcement in Indian country. The responsibility of the federal government, Indian tribes, and the government-to-government relationship between them is not unique to BIA and IHS. It is essential that the Department of Justice recognize and embrace its role in tribal law enforcement.

Unfortunately, the agency seems unwilling to take this responsibility seriously. The proposed fiscal year 2009 budget for Department of Justice would completely eliminate tribal programs. Perhaps dumping the responsibility of tribal enforcement onto other agencies.

I am here today to speak about the positive experiences we have had working with the Department of Justice and to ask this Subcommittee to restore or increase funding for tribal programs in order to ensure tribes can continue to work with our federal partners to improve law enforcement and justice services.

A critical piece of this funding is money for juvenile justice. The Native American population is younger than the general population. Nearly 70 percent of our people are under the age of 34. Native American youth are disproportionately affected by risk factors known to lead to delinquency. They experience much higher rates of violent victimization than non-native youth. They have lower levels of educational attainment and higher dropout rates. They are also over represented in the juvenile justice systems.

They tend to be arrested for less serious offenses, especially alcohol-related offenses. Yet, once in the system, they are more likely to receive the most punitive sanctions.

Tribal government are trying to counteract these statistics by creating and improving juvenile justice systems. But they face a number of barriers. Many tribes have no place to house juvenile offenders and are required to shoulder the costs of transportation and bed rental in order to send their youth to another jurisdiction, often far from their communities.

In addition, tribes have no ongoing source of funds for non-detention programs for youth. Research on juvenile justice has shown that detention is the most expensive and often the least effective way to deal with young offenders. It should be the last resort.

Today you have heard many witnesses testify about programs that work, like mentoring and family therapy. Most tribes do not have these programs. Without the resources to support alternatives to detention, tribes have few options for addressing juvenile crime.

I want to talk about two issues today related to juvenile justice in Indian country. First, I would like to discuss the correctional facilities on Tribal Lands Grant Program. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes received a grant through program to build a juvenile detention facility at Death Valley.

Before this, our youth were either sent 100 miles away to a county facility, which did not always have room and sometimes had to send our kids back, or they were sent several states away to a BIA-run facility in Arizona, which was later closed because of supervision problems.

The tribe wanted to—the tribe wanted a way to treat and rehabilitate our youth within the communities where we could exercise some oversight over the design and functioning of this facility.

The Department of Justice grant provided us with the construction money we needed to make this a reality. We strongly support this program. And our experience working with Department of Justice was more—was much more positive than our experience working with BIA on the staffing and maintenance issues.

The BIA recently completed a report on the need for detention resources in the country. By some estimates, it would take $6 billion to improve existing facilities and build new ones. If anything, we would like to see DOJ have a greater role in this process. We have several recommendation based on our experience that we believe will improve this program.

One, provide no less than $35 million to address the significant facility needs in Indian country. Consider making operational funding available to the Department of Justice in order to ensure that facilities are opened in a timely manner. Expand the purpose areas for DOJ construction grants to allow these grants to support rehabilitation and other non-detention programs.

Second, I would like to address juvenile justice program funding. Although there are several funding streams for juvenile justice, only one, Title 5 community prevention grants under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, have the tribe set aside. Tribes must apply to states for past-due funding, giving states a free hand over the distribution of funds and the conditions imposed on the grants.

This agreement—excuse me, this arrangement, treating tribes as a subordinate to state policy, flies in the face of government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government. It

also has practical consequences. Some states impose burdensome requirements. Other states simply overlook tribes.

I ask that you consider creating a direct tribal grant program for all juvenile justice funding, ensuring tribes access to all types of funding.

At current funding levels, this would need increasing the tribal youth program earmark to $36 million. At a minimum, I ask that you reject the Administration's proposed cuts. The budget would cut $200 million from juvenile justice. And it would eliminate the only dedicated source of tribal funding, the Tribal Youth Program. The Tribal Youth Program must be funded at no less than last year's level of 14.1 million.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Repeat that last part of your testimony. Right before the 14 million—$14.1 million for Tribal Youth Programs. You wanted direct funding?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008.

INDIAN TRIBAL PROGRAM

WITNESS

KYLE PRIOR, CHAIRMAN, SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES

Mr. PRIOR. Direct funding to tribes for all types of juvenile justice programs. Instead of going to state—or being part of the state block grant programs.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you for your testimony. Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you for your testimony.

Mr. PRIOR. Thank you.

[Written testimony of Kyle Prior, Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.]

Kyle Prior, Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation
House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Testimony Regarding FY 2009 Appropriations for the Department of Justice,
Tribal Law Enforcement & Justice Programs
March 28, 2008

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to testify on behalf of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation on the budget for the Department of Justice. In FY 2009, as in past years, the President has proposed significant cuts to several grant programs that provide critical funding to tribal law enforcement agencies and justice systems. If enacted, these cuts will cripple tribal justice systems. We respectfully request that you reject these proposed cuts and provide increases in key areas. We would also like to endorse the recommendations made by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in its "views and estimates" letter, which we attach for your reference.

I. Introduction.

Like state and local governments, tribes have justice systems comprised of police, court systems, detention facilities, drug treatment services and other alternatives to detention. For some tribes, these services are provided directly through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) with prosecution and investigation assistance provided by the Department of Justice (DOJ); other tribes provide these services themselves through contracts or compacts with the BIA. Many tribes have also invested in preventative programs, such as youth centers, youth activity programs and drug education, and many receive assistance from DOJ grants for these and other programs. The Department of Justice plays an important role in providing law enforcement in Indian country. In some instances, DOJ has been a partner where BIA has failed. Recent years have seen increased efforts at interagency cooperation between Justice, Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services. In order to make these collaborations a reality, it is essential that DOJ recognize and embrace its role in tribal law enforcement and work to facilitate communication and access. In this regard, we applaud the Department's recent streamlining of its tribal grants policy, but another piece of this equation is dependable funding. We therefore ask the Subcommittee to restore or increase funding for these ongoing tribal grant programs in order to ensure that tribes can continue to work with our federal partners to improve law enforcement and justice services.

The 290,000-acre Duck Valley Reservation is a remote, rural reservation straddling the border of Idaho and Nevada. The nearest population centers, Mountain Home, Idaho and Elko, Nevada, are 100 miles away. A two-lane road runs through the Reservation between these towns, and the road is sometimes closed during storms. We have approximately 1700 tribal members, about 900 of whom live on the Reservation. Like many isolated, rural tribes, our community is relatively poor. We have a 40% unemployment rate. Ninety-five percent of our students are poor enough to qualify for free or reduced lunch.[1] The BIA provides our police and detention services. However, the DOJ has been an important source of funding for us – for example, we have received grants in the past to construct a juvenile detention facility and to encourage enforcement of protection orders. We are also struggling to create and sustain community-based programs for our juvenile offenders.

[1] University of Nevada, Nevada Cooperative Extension, "MAGIC (Making a Group and Individual Commitment): A Program for Entry-Level Juvenile Offenders in Owyhee, Nevada (2000), available at http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/cd/2000/fs0031.pdf, at 2.

II. Juvenile Justice

A critical piece of tribal law enforcement funding is money for juvenile detention facilities and juvenile rehabilitation and treatment programs. The Native American population is younger than the general population;[2] at Duck Valley, nearly 70% of our people are under the age of 34. Native American youth are disproportionately affected by risk factors known to lead to delinquency. They experience much higher rates of violent victimization than non-Native youth.[3] They have lower levels of educational attainment and higher dropout rates.[4] They are also over-represented in the juvenile justice system.[5] They tend to be arrested for less serious offenses, especially alcohol-related offenses.[6] Yet, once in the system, they are more likely to receive the most punitive sanctions.[7]

Tribal governments are trying to counteract these statistics by creating and improving tribal juvenile justice systems, but they face a number of barriers. Many tribes have no place to house juvenile offenders, and are required to shoulder the cost of transportation and bed rental in order to send their youth to another jurisdiction – often far from their communities. In addition, tribes have no ongoing source of funds for non-detention programs for youth. Research on juvenile justice has shown that detention is the most expensive and often the least effective way to deal with young offenders; it should be the last resort. However, without the resources to support alternatives to detention, tribes have few options for addressing juvenile crime.

As it has for the past several years, this Administration has proposed to consolidate child safety and juvenile justice programs within the Department of Justice into a single grant program. This would encompass funding for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Juvenile Delinquency Block Grants, Internet Crimes Against Children, and several other grant programs. This consolidation is merely an effort to mask the President's proposed cut of more than $200 million to these programs. We ask the Subcommittee to reject this cut.

The Budget would also eliminate the set-aside for tribes typically provided by the Tribal Youth Program (TYP) earmark. This program is the only dedicated source of funding for tribal juvenile justice programs. In 2001, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes received a TYP grant to improve juvenile diversion and intervention services through our "MAGIC (Making a Group and Individual Commitment)" program, which teaches first time and non-violent offenders and their parents the skills needed to avoid delinquent behavior. At a minimum, TYP should be funded at no less than the FY 2008 amount of $14.1 million, but we ask the Subcommittee to consider going further. The TYP

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[2] U.S. Census Bureau, *We the People: American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States* (February 2006), at 5.

[3] U.S. Dep't of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *American Indians and Crime: A BJS Statistical Profile, 1992-2002* (December 2004), at 7.

[4] *We the People*, at 8.

[5] National Council on Crime and Delinquency, *Native American Youth and the Juvenile Justice System* (March 2008), at 1-5.

[6] Nationally, the arrest rate for Native American youth for most violent crimes is lower than in the general youth population. The arrest rate for alcohol violations, on the other hand, is twice that of the general population. *American Indians and Crime: A BJS Statistical Profile, 1992-2002*, at 16-17.

[7] *Native American Youth and the Juvenile Justice System*, at 5.

grant program is an annual set-aside for tribes out of Title V Community Prevention Grants under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. We ask that the Subcommittee consider expanding this tribal set-aside to encompass all juvenile justice programs. At current funding levels, this would mean increasing the Tribal Youth Program earmark to $36 million.

III. Detention Facilities in Indian Country

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs recently held a hearing on the dismal state of facilities in Indian country. The Committee estimates that it would take $6 billion to perform the construction and repairs needed to Indian country jails. For the past several years, DOJ funding for the Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands program has ranged from $5-10 million, which is often not enough to cover full construction of even one facility. This year, despite the documented need, the Administration proposes to eliminate this program entirely.

The Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands program has been critical source of funding for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Increasing juvenile crime rates combined with negative experiences with sending children away from the community led us to begin searching for ways to bring a juvenile facility to Duck Valley in the late 1990s. Although we have a BIA-run adult jail in Owyhee, we do not have a facility in which to house juvenile offenders. Delinquent youth are sent by the BIA to a county facility 100 miles away in Elko, where the BIA rents detention beds. However, we have encountered at least two problems with this system. First, the local community is often overwhelmed by its own juvenile justice needs. Often, no beds are available for youth from Duck Valley. Sometimes, we send a young person there, only to receive a call several days later saying the bed is needed and the juvenile has to be sent home. Second, because Elko is run as short-term facility, it is not well equipped to handle tribal offenders who receive longer terms.

The other option available to the BIA is to send youth several states away. Until recently, a BIA-run facility in Peach Springs, Arizona was the only juvenile facility in the area, and our youth were sent there. When your children are sent so far away, it is very difficult to monitor their well-being or be sure they are safe. Parents were not familiar with the Peach Springs facility. They didn't know what type of programs and recreation were available, how closely the youth were monitored, or whether adequate health care was provided. In one instance, a young boy from Duck Valley was beaten up by other juveniles while at Peach Springs. His tooth was knocked out, and his mother was left to find him medical care. Incidents like these caused concern in the community about what was happening to our children in this distant facility. As it turned out, our concerns were well-founded. The Peach Springs facility was closed by the BIA for several years after questions were raised about the adequacy of supervision and whether some youth were bringing contraband into the facility. Fortunately, we received a DOJ grant of almost $4 million to build a 28-bed facility on the Reservation, which was completed in 2004.

While we strongly support the Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands program, we have several recommendations based on our experience that we believe will improve the program:

- Provide no less than $35 million to address the significant facility needs in Indian

country. Without sufficient funding, DOJ has been limited in recent years to providing smaller planning grants, rather than funding construction of new facilities.

- Consider making operational funding available to the Department of Justice in order to ensure that facilities are opened in a timely manner. The newly-constructed juvenile facility at Duck Valley has not yet opened due to the BIA's failure to provide staffing and operations funding, and we would welcome the opportunity to work with DOJ to address this. Alternatively, we ask you to inquire with the BIA about the operational status of juvenile facilities constructed under this program.

- Expand the purpose areas for DOJ construction grants. Although it advocates building multi-purpose facilities and incorporating non-detention programs, especially for juveniles, DOJ cannot provide financial assistance to tribes in their efforts to pursue alternatives to incarceration because funding can only be used for correctional facilities.

IV. Other Tribal Justice Resources

Office of Justice Programs, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance. For FY 2009, the Administration proposes to consolidate state and local law enforcement assistance programs into two flexible grant programs – Byrne Public Safety and Protection grants and a violent crime reduction partnership initiative – each funded at $200 million. However, this reorganization of the OJP budget camouflages an overall decrease of more than $500 million for all the programs included in this category. It would also eliminate any specific set-aside for tribes. We are greatly concerned that, without this set-aside, tribal programs will lose funding because they are forced to compete with all other programs. Furthermore, it is not clear whether tribes would be eligible for these grants at all. We request that Subcommittee reject any decreases and, specifically, we ask that tribal justice programs be funded at least at FY 2008 levels, including no less than $9 million for Tribal Courts and no less than $5 million for the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Demonstration Program.

Indian Country COPS. The Administration proposes to completely eliminate funding for hiring, training and equipment grants under the Indian Country COPS program. Today, there are 1.3 law enforcement officers per 1,000 citizens in Indian county, compared to 2.9 law enforcement officers per 1,000 citizens in non-Indian communities. It is estimated that more than 2000 additional officers are required across Indian country just to meet minimum safety standards. Police officers working on reservations frequently have to patrol alone because of personnel shortages. Attracting and retaining adequate law enforcement staff has always been an issue at Duck Valley. We have only 3 police officers, including the Chief of Police. Since 1999, the COPS program has provided essential public safety services in Indian County and has assisted tribes in increasing the number of law enforcement officers. We ask the Subcommittee to restore $35 million for Tribal COPS.

Office of Violence Against Women. The most recent VAWA reauthorization provides that 10% of all appropriated funds be set aside for Indian tribes. These programs are of critical importance in Indian country, where the rates of domestic violence are extremely high. As Congress found, Indian women are battered at a rate of 23.2 per 1,000 (compared with 8 per 1,000 among

Caucasian women). Rape is also far too common – 1 out of every 3 American Indian and Alaska Native women are raped in their lifetimes. Unfortunately, these programs have never been funded up to authorized levels. For FY 2009, the Administration proposes an overall decrease of $120 million and elimination of specific tribal programs. We ask the Subcommittee to restore funding for VAWA programs at least to FY 2008 levels.

Office of the United States Attorney. According to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, funding for federal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country has steadily decreased over the past several years, with the result that United States attorneys declined to prosecute 62% of Reservation criminal cases between 2004 and 2007. With funding shortages, the part-time hours of many Indian country Assistant United States Attorneys make effective law enforcement on our Reservations difficult. At Duck Valley, one of our greatest needs is for additional prosecution and investigation assistance from the AUSA. We ask the Subcommittee to increase funding for local AUSAs with responsibilities for Indian country law enforcement to an amount sufficient to support at least one full-time position.

Direct Tribal Funding. Tribes are not directly eligible for funding under several of the major funding streams upon which states depend for law enforcement resources, including Byrne formula grants, local law enforcement block grants, juvenile justice formula grants under Title II of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, and Juvenile Accountability Block Grants. As a consequence, tribes must apply through states for pass-through funding, giving states a free hand over the distribution of funds and the conditions imposed on the grants. This arrangement – treating tribes as subordinate to state policy – flies in the face of the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government. It also has practical consequences. Some states impose onerous requirements, such as escalating match rules, waivers of sovereign immunity, or consent to state court jurisdiction, before entering into agreements with tribes. Other states simply overlook tribes. We are lucky because the State of Idaho has generally reached out to tribes and cooperated in the area of juvenile justice. However, being on the border of two states, we can attest to the major differences between states in this respect. At present, we have very little involvement with the State of Nevada for law enforcement and juvenile justice resources because it is simply too difficult to navigate the relationship between the State and all the other tribes in Nevada. In order for tribes to work with states, it is essential for tribes to have unimpeded access to funding for tribal programs. We therefore ask that you make tribes directly eligible for law enforcement and justice assistance programs, where permitted by law.

IV. Conclusion

The need for law enforcement resources in Indian country is great. We ask that the Subcommittee recognize the important role that the Department of Justice plays in providing law enforcement resources to tribes. At a minimum, we ask you to reject the Administration's proposal to eliminate specific tribal programs under its jurisdiction. If we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our counsel, Mary J. Pavel or Addie C. Rolnick at Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP, 1425 K Street NW, Ste. 600, Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 682-0240; mpavel@sonosky.com; arolnick@sonosky.com.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Thank you all. I think that is all the witnesses we have today. The hearing is adjourned.

Testimony of Renaissance Marble & Granite
Mark Hernandez, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Renaissance Marble & Granite**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **Renaissance Marble & Granite**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

NJMEP 's assesment of Renaissance Marble & Granite's business was right on the mark, as a result, we recently embarked on a transformational journey that exceeded our expectations, we improved our flow, quality, delivery and profitability, and retained over 50 jobs and created 4 new positions.

Renaissance Marble & Granite believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Mark W Hernandez

Precision Linear Motion Components

GO PLUS® LINEAR SHAFTING – SUPPORT RAILS – LINEAR BALL BEARINGS AND ROLLER BEARING PILLOW BLOCKS – LINEAR GUIDES – SYSTEMS – SLIDES

March 17, 2008

To: The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Sub Committee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

From: Alan M. Haveson----CEO Lee Linear

I am the CEO of Lee Linear, the last domestic manufacturer of precision shafting. We are a small, but competitive player in the global linear motion industry. We manufacture components that make things glide easily along horizontal and vertical tracks, from shopping mall doors to MRI machines. Essential products for the world in which we live! I purchased this 47 year old company less than three years ago.

I am offering these comments in an effort to encourage you to authorize the needed funds enabling the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program to continue in its efforts to assist U.S. businesses in becoming more efficient, profitable, and able to provide jobs and opportunities. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, and authorized to improve the competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

As manufacturers we face an enormous challenge to find skilled personnel, and for that matter people who want to learn, work, and earn! We face challenges in finding customers willing to pay for domestically produced products, in spite of its higher quality compared to what is coming from offshore companies. We face mandates from both Federal and State government legislators who make no real effort to understand what we do, how we do it, and what we bring to the table. Without private sector jobs, and the wealth created, there wouldn't be any money for the governments to spend!

At Lee we are the beneficiary of a grant from the Department of Labor, and NJMEP. Through this grant (we also had to pay in) we were able to bring in, in-house training, and education. Through this grant, we were able to introduce new efficiencies into our processes, increase job opportunities, improve relations with the Union in which our manufacturing employees are members, and meet off shore competition head on. If the grant to help was unavailable, if I had to continue this operation fighting the obstacles, alone, I probably would have had to close the plant, and default on the debt I took on to fund the effort.

I believe, if the President's budget is accepted American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic aid at a critical time of need. The program offered through Hollings and NJMEP has achieved significant, and positive results on national, state, and local economies. Eliminating this VALUE ADDED BENEFIT for manufacturing will cause more damage to the economy than the money saved by cutting the budget.

Education, training, and the implementation of technology are catalysts for innovation! Without these key components, American manufacturers cannot compete. The Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program along with the efforts of NJMEP are critical as this nation works to improve the foundation of the American industrial base to create jobs, and paychecks to ensure our country continues to be a force in a global economy. Your support of their efforts is essential to the well being of our country!

Respectfully,

Alan M. Haveson

Lee Linear is Committed to Work Smarter to Become the Supplier of Choice for Precision Linear Motion Products
Lee Controls, Inc., 727 South Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854
Phone (732) 752-5200 Outside N.J. Call Toll Free: 800-221-0811 Fax: (732) 968-7080
www.leelinear.com **email: leelinear@linearmotion.com**

Testimony of the Pepco Manufacturing Company
Al Coughlin Director Quality Assurance
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Pepco Manufacturing Company**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **COO** of the **Pepco Manufacturing Company**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program that is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

"New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program assisted us in getting a grant from the Department of Labor, in order for us to achieve our ISO 2000 training. With NJMEP's help and knowledge we were able to finish in just 4 months. This training was extremely important to continue our ambition to be an industry leader. Thanks to NJMEP and the DOL we were able to achieve our goal.saving over 35 jobs ."

Pepco Manufacturing Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology, which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

This program is the sole reason Pepco Manufacturing has its ISO 9001:2000 certification. Eliminating this program is promoting small American companies from loosing business because they are not certified. Pepco was to proceed with lean manufacturing training in the future; eliminating the MEP will suffocate the small companies such as us.

Testimony of Edmund Optics, Inc.
Stan Oskiera, Vice President of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Edmund Optics, Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President of Operations** of the **Edmund Optics, Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP have been instrumental in procuring financial training assistance and through their analysis of our business designed and we are implementing those recommendations. NJMEP is an invaluable resource for the small manufactures in New Jersey

Edmund Optics, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Royal Paper Box
Andy Polanco, Manager-Inside Sales
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Royal Paper Box, located in Montebello CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Royal Paper Boxto submit testimony for the record. As Manager-Inside Sales of Royal Paper Box, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Royal Paper Box did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we engaged them to assist us with a Lean Office implementation implementation which resulted in the following bottom-line impacts for our company.

Investment in Our Plant and Workforce: 14900

Increased Competitiveness:

This support from CMTC led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a manufacturer in a globally competitive marketplace we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Royal Paper Box believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully,

Andrew S. Polanco
Inside Sales Manager

P.O. Box 458 1105 S. Maple Ave. Montebello, CA 90640 323.728.7041 Fax: 323.722.2646
www.RoyalPaperBox.com ISO 9001:2000 Certified

Testimony of Aqua Sun Ozone International Inc.
Angela Wells, CFO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Aqua Sun Ozone International Inc., located in Palm Springs California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Aqua Sun Ozone International Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As CFO of Aqua Sun Ozone International Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Aqua Sun Ozone International Inc. did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Aqua Sun Ozone International Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Ship & Shore Environmental,inc.
Anoosheh Mostafaei, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Ship & Shore Environmental, located in Signal Hill, California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Ship & Shore Environmental to submit testimony for the record. As an owner of Ship & Shore Environmental, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Ship & Shore Environmental did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Ship & Shore Environmental believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

"The mission of WorldWater & Solar Technologies is to be the leading provider of solar-powered motors, water pumping and electricity for people throughout the world."

Testimony of the WorldWater & Solar Technologies Corp.
Anne Wenski, Human Resource Director
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the WorldWater & Solar Technologies Corp., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As the Human Resource Director for WorldWater & Solar Technologies Corp., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP recently completed a QuickView assessment with us that has helped WorldWater & Solar Technology move toward improvements to our business. The recommended training programs will help impact the bottom line through various business improvements to address customer satisfaction with reduced lead time, and on time delivery. Due to the expansion of the company, many other courses are on the slate to improve communication and employees skills to help build a structure that will carry the company forward against the competition.

WorldWater & Solar Technologies Corp. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Anne Wenski
Director Human Resources 3/20/2008

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• Solar Pumps & Motors • Solar Electrical Systems • Water Management

Esterline

Control Systems Group

Mason
Esterline Corporation
13955 Balboa Blvd.
Sylmar, CA 91342

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NYSE symbol: ESL

To: The U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

March 26, 2008

RE: Testimony of Esterline Mason

On behalf of Esterline Mason, located in Sylmar CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Esterline Mason to submit testimony for the record. As the Human Resources Director at Esterline Mason, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically of the work Esterline Mason did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we engaged them to assist us with a Fundamentals of Manufacturing Control implementation which resulted in the following bottom-line impacts for our company.

Employees Retained: 52
Cost Savings: $13,000
Investment in Our Plant and Workforce: $20,000

This support from CMTC led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a manufacturer in a globally competitive marketplace we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program.

Esterline Mason believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Regards,

Ruben Galvan, Jr., PHR
Human Resources Director

Ciba Corporation
NAFTA Region

Kevin Baioni
NAFTA Project Leader
Lean Manufacturing

Testimony of Ciba Specialty Chemicals
Kevin Baioni, NAFTA Project Leader
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Ciba Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As NAFTA Project Leader for Ciba Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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AMS has assisted our company with Lean Manufacturing Training and Implementation over the past two years. The results included $200 thousand in inventory reduction, $250 thousand savings in unnecessary investments, $150 thousand in material savings and over $500 thousand in other savings.

Ciba Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Best Regards,
Kevin Baioni
NAFTA Project Leader
Lean Manufacuring

Testimony of Environmental Compliance Assistance, LLC
William E. Corbin, Associate
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Environmental Compliance Assistance, LLC, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As an Associate of the company, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program that is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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As a resource for the **New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program (NJMEP)**, Environmental Compliance Assistance, LLC provides environmental consulting services to the small companies that NJMEP assists. In the past five years, we have assisted a number of New Jersey manufacturing facilities resolve compliance issues, obtain necessary permits, and prepare necessary periodic submittals to continue to operate under the tough environmental laws and regulations of this state and nation. We believe that our involvement with NJMEP has assisted a number of facilities to continue to operate profitably in this country and avoid the exportation of additional jobs and industrial infrastructure overseas. In my opinion, this is imperative for our national economy and for our industrial viability in potential future conflicts.

Environmental Compliance Assistance, LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology that is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,
William E. Corbin, Associate
Environmental Compliance Assistance, LLC
479 Lyons Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
570/619-7758

Testimony of the Argent Associates
Betty Manetta, President & CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Argent Associates**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President & CEO** of **Argent Associates**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Because of theNJMEP training, we were able to increase sales by $800K, retain sales by $2 million and invest in workforce development by $250K. We have also been able to grow into new areas to better diversify our company. We are grateful to the NJDOL for the training grant and for NJMEP for helping us get it. They have been particularly helpful to small, Hispanic, women-owned businesses like Argent. In addition, we are utilizing the agency to expand into Nogales, Arizona, and Raleigh, North Carolina. If we don't continue to utilize agencies like MEP, our small and minority/women owned businesses cannot compete with SME's from other countries and thus enable to help grow our countries economy.

Argent Associates believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Action Graphix
Blant Hurt, Chairman
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Action Graphix to submit testimony for the record. As Chairman of Action Graphix, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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AMS has assisted our company with Lean Manufacturing Training and Implementation. The results included over $5 million in increased and retained sales, over $500 thousand in inventory, labor and material savings and over $250 thousand in other savings.

Action Graphix believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Wearbest Sil-Tex Mills
William Schwarzlow, CFO & VP Administration
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Wearbest Sil-Tex Mills**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **CFO and VP Administration** of **Wearbest Sil-Tex Mills**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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With NJMEP's assistance we have created a Value Stream Map of our manufacturing process, which has improved communication and teamwork within our organization. We have also identified new opportunities and ideas to improve our efficiency and become more competitive in the market place.

Wearbest Sil-Tex Mills believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

William Schwarzlow
CFO & VP Administration
Wearbest Sil-Tex Mills Ltd.

Testimony of Pareto Point Industries
Dr. Robert Hammer, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Pareto Point Industries, located in Commerce California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Pareto Point Industries to submit testimony for the record. As CEO of Pareto Point Industries, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Pareto Point Industries did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Pareto Point Industries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of CW Aerotech
Bob Wehr, Executive Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the CW Aerotech, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Executive Vice President of CW Aerotech, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program, which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

CW Aerotech Services was established in 1991 in Arlington, Texas to assist small research and development organizations in transferring their advanced technology projects into viable commercial products. CW Aerotech Services specializes in product development, marketing, and program management. Noteworthy among their most recent projects is a ***High Intensity De-ionization System (HIDS)*** that is capable of removing harmful minerals from ground water.

Situation

Potable water for many regions of the country comes from artesian well and aquifer ground water, which is often saturated with inorganic calcium, magnesium, and sodium. In response to this problem, CW Aerotech Services is developing a low-cost / low-maintenance water demineralization system, referred to as ***HIDS.*** These units remove the unwanted minerals from ground water and prevent detrimental health effects. One of the critical components to the performance of the water purification system is the eight-inch, de-ionizing coil. For the original prototype, the coils were manually fabricated. However, a new process was needed to assemble the coils with consistent tension and fold geometry, as well as be scalable for high-rate production. With no off-the-shelf solutions available, CW Aerotech Services contacted TMAC (the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center) to work on the development of an automated coil winding machine.

Solution
In the initial kickoff meeting, representatives from CW Aerotech Services presented the specification requirements for the coil. TMAC offered suggestions on how to make it more conducive to automated production. After the design was modified, TMAC developed several concepts for automation, using rapid prototyped parts for the evaluation of promising candidates. The winding assembly components were acquired and/or machined, assembled, and successfully tested. The project was completed with a demonstration of a working automated production system for **HIDS** coils.

Results
High-quality de-ionizing coils can now be produced using the new automation equipment.

- Coils are now wound with a consistent ribbon tension
- Excellent alignment of ribbon materials is maintained during the winding process
- A manual, time-consuming winding process unsuitable for high-rate production was replaced by an automated, faster process with higher quality results

TMAC has begun a second phase project with CW Aerotech Services for the Process Characterization and Qualification of ***HIDS***.

County: Tarrant
www.scytcc.com/cw/CWCustomers.html
Industry: Engineering Services
NAICS: 54133
TMAC Services Provided: Automation

CW Aerotech believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology, which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and row the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Boyle Tool & Die Co. Inc.
Thomas Boyle, Founder and owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Boyle Tool & Die Co. Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President and owner** of the **Boyle Tool & Die Co. Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

We completed a project with NJMEP- the writing of a business plan- which brought all the components of our organization together. Like a puzzle, we saw the total picture, which helped us in moving the business in the right direction.

Boyle Tool & Die Co. Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of West Electronics Inc.
Brad Brainard, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **West Electronics Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **West Electronics Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We've been considering pursuit of ISO 9001 registration as a means to increase our marketability. Unfortunately we didn't know how to begin. My thanks to NJMEP for all the research and information regarding ISO. We have been Mil spec compliant for years and were uncertain what we needed to do for ISO and what was important for us as we move into consumer electronics. 1 look foward to working with NJMEP on the ISO registration.

West Electronics Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Aero Engineering, Inc.
Brent Borden, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Aero Engineering, Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing our company to submit testimony for the record. As President of Aero Engineering, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Aero Engineering, Inc. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that helped lead us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us continue to stay in business.

Aero Engineering, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of StructureCast
Brent Dezember, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of StructureCast, located in Bakersfield, CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing StructureCast to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof StructureCast, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work StructureCast did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

StructureCast believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Pendarvis Manufacturing Inc.
Brian Pendarvis, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Pendarvis Manufacturing Inc., located in Anaheim California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Pendarvis Manufacturing Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Pendarvis Manufacturing Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Pendarvis Manufacturing Inc. did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Pendarvis Manufacturing Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Regards,

Brian Pendarvis

Testimony of, J.V. Manufacturing, Inc..
Jeff Givens, Vice President of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing J.V. Manufacturing, Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of Operations of J.V. Manufacturing, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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With the help and support of this organization we have been able to achieve some very impressive results. In 2006 and 2007 we were able to achieve a 15% improvement in productivity while lowering our overtime by 1.2%. We achieved this during a 22% increase in sales in 2006. Our quality improved as productivity increased and we were able to reduce our defects per unit, which resulted in a 48% improvement.

J.V. Manufacturing, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Alsius
Brian Kirchner, Manager of Special Projects
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Alsius, located in Irvine California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Alsius to submit testimony for the record. As Manager of Special Projectsof Alsius, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically of the work Alsius did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Alsius believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Carbon Copy of San Diego
Rick Moran, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Carbon Copy of San Diego, located in San Diego California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Carbon Copy of San Diego to submit testimony for the record. As Owner of Carbon Copy of San Diego, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Carbon Copy of San Diego did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

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Snap-on Equipment
309 Exchange Ave
Conway, AR 72032

Testimony of the Snap On Tools
Greg Calico, Safety Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Snap On Tools to submit testimony for the record. As Safety Manager, Snap On Equipment Conway, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the MEP is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The assistance provided by Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions through their Technology Transfer Grant Program allowed us to retain 20 jobs that would have been lost and to retain over 1 million in sales. We were able to save several contracts and to continue to improve our safety and manufacturing processes. This program is an excellent program that provides a much needed service to manufacturers in Arkansas.

Snap-On Equipment Conway believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

G Calico

Safety Manager
Snap-on Equipment Conway

Testimony of the Global Manufacturing, Inc.
Catherine B. Janosky, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I, Catherine Janosky would like to thank the Committee for allowing Global Manufacturing to submit testimony for the record. As CEO of the Global Manufacturing, Inc I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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My company has worked with Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS) for the past few years. I am very impressed with the value they have added to our manufacturing processes. It is truly difficult to be an excellent manufacturer today and without the help of the AMS we would struggle more. They helped us implement *Lean Manufacturing* through training and many site visits. Our manufacturing flow has improved tremendously and continues to improve with each Lean principal we institute. Before Lean we had at least eight weeks of back orders, but today we are caught up and are able to ship products to our customers immediately. AMS also did a thorough analysis of our website and trained us on how to redo our website so the search engines will 'find' us.

Manufacturing is vital to our country. Please don't take away the little bit of help you give us. Everything cannot be made in foreign lands. I believe once the Olympics are over in China there will be some severe problems with sourcing parts from that country. We do not directly source parts from China, but one of our suppliers buys a component for one of our motors. This component has been a major pain in the neck and has caused endless quality problems. We need to be able to rely on affordable U.S. manufacturers!

Global Manufacturing, Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions
Daniel L. Curtis, Director
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (Authority, www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the **Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology** (NIST) **Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership** (MEP) to submit testimony for the record. As Director of AMS and Vice President of Industry for the Authority, I am writing to respectfully request that the MEP program be provided the authorized **$122 million** within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the MEP is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

The following table shows the impact AMS has had on manufacturers in the state of Arkansas based on the most recent surveys conducted by an independent organization on behalf of MEP:

Increased & Retained Sales	$162.1 million
Cost savings	$11.2 million
New investment in modernization	$66.6 million
Jobs created and retained	2517
Most recent	(12 month period)

In addition, the following success stories (Attachment 1 and 2) are examples showing the impact AMS has on manufacturers in Arkansas and how they value the importance of the services AMS provides.

Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Daniel L. Curtis

Director, Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions
Arkansas Science & Technology Authority
423 Main Street, Suite 200
Little Rock, AR 72201

501-683-4411 (Voice)
501-683-4420 (Fax)

Email: dan.curtis@mfgsolutions.org
www.mfgsolutions.org

Success Story for Bemco, Inc.

Title: AS 9100 Certification

Company Profile: Bemco started up their business in 1957 and has developed into a sub-contractor for the Aerospace Industry (NAICS 332912). Their markets are prime aircraft and helicopter companies, international sub-contractors, as well as the government armed services. Currently, Bemco, Inc. employs 35 people at its facility in Centerton, Arkansas.

Situation: In 2005, Bemco, Inc. learned that certain customers were implemented the requirement of AS 9100 registration for their suppliers. While Bemco, Inc. understood that implementing the aerospace quality standard would impact the production environment and methods of operations by increasing efficiency and effectiveness, they did not have the internal expertise to effectively develop the required program.

Results: Bemco, Inc. received AS 9100 certification on 12-21-2006. A direct result of achieving certification was the retention of business valued at $1.5 million and the retention of 15 associated positions within the company. Additionally, increased sales are anticipated.

Testimonial: The assistance of Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions and the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority made the ISO certification process much simpler for our small business. Certification would have been much more difficult for us to achieve without their help."

Mr. Jerry Yount
Bemco, Inc.
233 Main Street
Centerton, AR 72719

Success Story for Amfuel

Company Profile: Amfuel (NAICS Code: 336413) located in Magnolia, Arkansas employs a workforce of 300 including engineers to provide solutions for containing fuel and liquids for all types of applications. Amfuel is a major fuel cell supplier of the OEM aircraft and helicopter industry and provides fuel and liquid containment solutions for military applications.

Situation: Government inspectors who check the quality of the products were unsure if entering into the fuel cells was safe and asked Amfuel to provide verification that inspectors were not at risk of exposure to unknown hazards. Inspections were put on hold until verification of a safe work environment could be established. This delay in inspections brought a multi-million dollar contract to a halt. Amfuel, after reviewing their program, policies and procedures decided to strengthen their Confined Space Entry program and wanted to demonstrate that hazards were being managed safely. They contacted Safety & Environmental Associates, Inc. (SEA) for solutions who in turn contacted Scotty McKnight, Project Manager from Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS) for assistance through the Technology Transfer Assistance Grant (TTAG) Program.

Results: As a result of this TTAG funded implementation project:

- Amfuel saved a minimum of $5000 in direct costs by developing a safety program utilizing the TTAG program.
- This project alone released the hold on the contract which saved the company capital of $5.6 million and 40 jobs.
- AMS support along with SEA's technical assistance and guidance helped Amfuel in improving its safety program, which led to the resolving of a significant contract issue.

Testimonial: Thanks to the efforts of SEA and Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions we were able to achieve a strengthened safety program. The assistance of the TTAG grant helped us maintain our competitive edge in the marketplace. I would recommend your services to anyone in need of environmental, hygiene and safety solutions.

Testimony of the Bestwork Industries for the Blind Inc.
Charles Kingsland
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Bestwork Industries for the Blind Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of the **Bestwork Industries for the Blind Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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"When we needed help and guidance with a new product line, NJMEP came in and provided us with directions and solutions. They helped us get a Grant from the Department of Labor, which helped us train our workers to help make us one of the best textile producers in our National Industries for the Blind family. Thank you NJMEP and the DOL for helping us and other manufacturers in New Jersey."

Bestwork Industries for the Blind Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Change & Response Strategies, LLC
Christopher D'Marco
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Change & Response Strategies LLC, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Change & Response Strategies. LLC to submit testimony for the record. As Executive Vice President of Change & Response Strategies, LLC, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Change & Response Strategies, LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Decker Brothers Gourmet
Chris Decker, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Decker Brothers Gourmet, located in San Diego California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Decker Brothers Gourmet to submit testimony for the record. As Owner of Decker Brothers Gourmet, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Decker Brothers Gourmet did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. After 6 months of invaluable counseling with CMTC, we are starting to hire our first employees, thus creating needed jobs in our community.

Decker Brothers Gourmet believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Rockline Industries Montville facility
Christopher Bruno, General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Rockline Industries Montville facility**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **General Manager** of Rockline Industries Montville facility, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Rockline Industries Montville facility manufactures private label coffee filters. I would like to thank the NJMEP. We have attended several of their manufacturing seminars. They have conducting a GEMBA Lean Opportunity Assessment for us and assisted in a recent DOL grant application for employee training. These are just some of the important services that the MEP program provides to small U.S. manufacturers.

Rockline Industries Montville facility believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Christopher C. Bruno
General Manager, Rockline Industries
1 Kramer Drive
Montville, NJ 07045

Testimony of Delafield Corporation
Hamdy Youssef, Corporate Quality Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Delafield Corporation, located in Duarte California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Delafield Corporation to submit testimony for the record. As Quality Managerof Delafield Corporation, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Delafield Corporation did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Delafield Corporation believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Hamdy Youssef
Corporate Quality manager
Deladfield Corporation
(626)-303-0740 Ext. 3601
hamdy@dftmail.net

Testimony of Best Dental Lab
Charles El Mais, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Best Dental Lab, located in Cathedral City California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Best Dental Lab to submit testimony for the record. As Owner of Best Dental Lab, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Best Dental Lab did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Best Dental Lab believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Century Rubber Company
Steve Cozzetto, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Century Rubber Company, located in Bakersfield, CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Century Rubber Company to submit testimony for the record. As President of Century Rubber Company, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Century Rubber Company did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Century Rubber Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Imperial Cabinets
Alex Sarmiento, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Imperial Cabinets, located in Commerce California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Imperial Cabinets to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Imperial Cabinets, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Imperial Cabinets did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Imperial Cabinets believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully Yours,

Tiffany Corbett
Owner Of Girl ExtraOrdinaire

Testimony of Imperial Cabinets
Alex Sarmiento, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Imperial Cabinets, located in Commerce California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Imperial Cabinets to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Imperial Cabinets, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically of the work Imperial Cabinets did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Imperial Cabinets believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully Yours,

Courtney Noelle Ratliff
Owner Of Natures Notebook

Testimony of T A H Industries
Dan Connors, VP of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **T A H Industries**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **VP of Operations** of **T A H Industries**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP recently conducted an Internal Auditor Training and Root Cause Analysis classes at our facility. These classes have helped us to decrease our plants overall downtime and eliminate problems at the source, by giving our staff the training to systematically address continuous improvement activities in our ISO 9001 facility. We continue to utilize the services of NJMEP to stay competitive and remain an ISO 9001 certified company

T A H Industries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Chunk-N-Chip Cookies
Claudia Gonzalez, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Chunk-N-Chip Cookies, located in Bellflower California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Chunk-N-Chip Cookies to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Chunk-N-Chip Cookies, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Chunk-N-Chip Cookies did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Chunk-N-Chip Cookies believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

CROLL REYNOLDS

Process Vacuum | Air Pollution Control

Testimony of the Croll Reynolds, Company Inc. and
The Clean Air Group. LLC.
Samuel W. Croll, III, Chief Executive Officer
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Croll Reynolds Inc.**, and **The Clean Air Group, LLC.** I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Chief Executive Officer** of the **Croll Reynolds Inc.** and **The Clean Air Group, LLC,** I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

Croll Reynolds Company, Inc. is an engineering firm located in Parsippany, New Jersey, specializing in the research, design and manufacture of ejector based Vacuum and Air Pollution Control Equipment. Specifically, we design Vacuum Systems including Multi-Stage Steam Jet Ejectors, Combination Liquid Ring/Ejector Systems, Thermocompressors, and Vacuum Chillers. The Clean Air Group, LLC

Croll Reynolds Co., Inc. Six Campus Drive, Parsippany New Jersey 07054 USA

Telephone (908) 232-4200
Facsimile (908) 232-2146

Email info@croll.com

designs Jet Venturi Scrubbers, High Energy Venturi Scrubbers, NOX Scrubbers and Packed Towers.

Croll Reynolds' primary market is the Chemical Process Industry however it has extensive experience in the Petrochemical Industry; the Pulp and Paper Industry; the Pharmaceutical Industry; the Power Industry; the Aerospace Industry; the Steel Industry and, the Food Processing Industry in such diverse applications as evaporative cooling, desalinization, atmosphere simulation and degassing. It enjoys a worldwide reputation for quality engineering.

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NJMEP assisted Croll Reynolds Company Inc. and The Clean Air Group LLC with attainment of its ISO-9001/2000 certification. We estimate that an additional $1,000,000 in business will result from this effort over the next 18 months.

Croll Reynolds Co. Inc. and **The Clean Air Group. LLC** believe that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose significant economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's

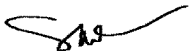
Croll Reynolds Co., Inc. 751 Central Avenue, PO Box 668, Westfield, New Jersey 07091 USA

Telephone (908) 232-4200
Facsimile (908) 232-2146

Email scroll@croll.com

efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully Submitted,



Samuel W. Croll, III
CEO

Parsippany, New Jersey
March 12, 2008

Croll Reynolds Co., Inc. 751 Central Avenue, PO Box 668, Westfield, New Jersey 07091 USA

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Testimony of Financial Executives International
Michael P. Cangemi, President, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Financial Executives International (FEI), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my organization to submit testimony for the record. As President and CEO of Financial Executives International, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Financial Executives International is the preeminent association for CFOs and other senior finance executives. Its members are advocates for the American business community and for professionalism and ethical behavior in the practice of financial management in business. Through our research foundation, we provide a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in financial management.

Our organization is composed of numerous manufacturing company financial executives as well as many service company financial management leaders. As leaders in American business, we recognize the value of having a strong and growing manufacturing economy that produces goods here in our own country and preserves well paying jobs for American workers. A strong manufacturing base creates jobs in other sectors of the economy by procuring raw materials and services furnished by such sectors as mining, financial services, construction to name but a few. Furthermore, many of our members' companies are direct recipients of MEP services and have realized significant benefits from this valuable program.

Financial Executives International believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Opulent Entries
Cynthia Johnson, President- CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Opulent Entries, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Opulent Entries to submit testimony for the record. As Owner of the Opulent Entries, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Opulent Entries, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Opulent Entries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the T E Wire & Cable Inc.
Douglas Cooper, CFO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **T E Wire & Cable Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **CFO** of the **T E Wire & Cable Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP's trainers were professional and knowledgeable. They related well to all levels of personnel and were able to maintain the project focus at a high level. We had an early successful implementation of certain Lean principals. This increased business volume as a result of improved efficiency and lower costs which made our products more competitive.

T E Wire & Cable Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of California Manufacturing Inc.
Danh Bui, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of California Manufacturing Inc., located in Orange California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing California Manufacturing Inc to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof California Manufacturing Inc, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work California Manufacturing Inc. did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

California Manufacturing Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Bayshore Vinyl Compounds Inc.
David Farrell, Systems Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Bayshore Vinyl Compounds Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Systems Manager** of the **Bayshore Vinyl Compounds Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We completed two assessments last year. The Quickview Assessment, conducted by the NJMEP, provided us with an overall view of our current business practices and an analysis of our company's strengths and areas that need attention. As a result of this assessment we are investigating Lean initiatives as a method to streamline our operations and improve profitability. The second assessment - the Lean Opportunity Assessment - pinpointed specific opportunities to reduce inventory, increase throughput, reduce setup times and speed up delivery. The assessment included a specific scope of work, and we look forward to working with NJMEP to implement these programs

Bayshore Vinyl Compounds Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Pentek, Inc.
Daniel Shamah, Present
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Pentek, Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Present** of **Pentek, Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community. MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

NJMEP has been very helpful. They have given us valuable insight with their Lean Opportunity Assessment. The LOA was instrumental in our decision to undergo a Lean Transformation in 2008 in our journey for Continuous Improvement. NJMEP is also assisting us with our grant process with the state of New Jersey.

Pentek believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Absecon Mills Inc
David Adair, executive vice president
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Absecon Mills Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **executive vice president** of **Absecon Mills Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The train- do methodology that NJMEP utilizes provided us the solid foundation to take the improvements across our facility- with our own internal trainers. We have truly reaped great benefits from their training service. In fact, we are currently planning our next project with them which we anticipate to start in April

Absecon Mills Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Regards,

David Adair
Executive VP Absecon Mills

Testimony of the DuPont Parlin Site
David Steward, Plant Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **DuPont Parlin Site**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Plant Manager** of the **DuPont Parlin Site**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The one-day ergonomic assessment by NJMEP's Dr. Jeng covered observations and measurement at our Cyrel® line. The main objectives for this assessment were to survey the overall work conditions, identifying areas pertaining to ergonomics that might require improvements, and seeking cost-effective solutions. It focused on identifying potential hazards which might lead to musculoskeletal disorders (MSD), i.e. cumulative trauma disorders (CTD), including back injuries. Improvement of those working conditions not only is cost-effective, but also shows that DuPont is committed to protect its employees by providing sound working environment.

DuPont Parlin Site believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Prime Business Group
David Hollinger, Sr. Partner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Prime Business Group, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Prime Business Group to submit testimony for the record. As the Senior Partner of Prime Business Group, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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As a participant with **New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program (NJMEP),** I have personally helped many manufacturers improve their operations. Below are a few examples of successes the MEP budget supports:

Headwear Manufacturer, Newark, New Jersey
- Reduced manufacturing lead time from 3 weeks to 1 week.
- Improved productivity by a factor of 3
- Lower costs allowed a 40% raise for most workers
- Company was able to buy a bankrupt operation, and
- Hired 40 additional workers

Adhesives Manufacturer, Clifton, NJ
- Reduced costs by about $400,000
- Improved inventory accuracy

Packaging Accessories Mfg., Beachwood, NJ
- Reduced manufacturing lead time from 8 weeks to 4 weeks
- Improved customer service resulted in a revenue increase of about 10%
- Company increased exports to Japan, Australia, & Europe

Printed Circuit Mfg., S. Plainfield, NJ
- Reduced assembly time from 4 days to 2 days
- Company revenue has increased significantly
- Company exports to Japan, Europe

Prime Business Group believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which

we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Regards,

David G. Hollinger
CPIM, EA, Six Sigma Greenbelt
Sr. Partner
Prime Business Group
732-922-0255 (Office)
732-310-4275 (Cell)
732-922-0343 (Fax)
Dave@PrimeBusinessGroup.com

Testimony of Superseal Manufacturing Co. Inc. of NJ
Dianet Castillo Cardenas, Human Resources Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Superseal Manufacturing Co. Inc., South Plainfield, NJ**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As the **Human Resources Manager** of **Superseal Manufacturing Co Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community. MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Superseal Manufacturing Co. Inc., is a window manufacturing company in South Plainfield, NJ. Being part of the housing industry, the ripple effects of the uncertainty of the economy has also taken a toll on our business. It is imperative for a company such as ours to remain competitive in this industry if we look to survive and continue to do business in the state of New Jersey. With the help of NJMEP we have been able to do just that. NJMEP has provided us training on The Principles of and Implementation of Lean Manufacturing, Data Analysis, Time Management , Team Building, ESL, Spanish for Managers , Excel, Word, Power Point, just to name some. With this, we have enriched the skills of our employees resulting in a more knowledgeable workforce with positive attitudes and eager to work. This in itself gives us the base to make us a more competitive company in a market where it seems that, now more than ever, competition is the name of the game. Our management team now demonstrates leadership skills and tenacity in obtaining our company goals. With the skills they have learned, they are demonstrating how to manage efficiently and effectively which is a key factor to our industry. Through NJMEP we have been able to network ourselves and come in contact with companies that are in similar situations

as ours and have been able to learn from each other, making us all better companies. Within the last 5 years, NJMEP has been a tremendous asset to our company and had it not been for their guidance we would not have been able to evolve as much as we have. We are still one of biggest employers in the area, providing employment for over 250 people. However, we do not have a blind eye to what surrounds us, companies closing, unemployment abound, operating costs rising etc. With all these factors around, now more than ever we need NJMEP.

Superseal Manufacturing Co. Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianet Cardenas
Human Resources Manager
Superseal Mfg. Co. Inc.
125 Helen Street
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Office: 908-561-5910 Ext. 3019
Fax: 908-754-6853

Testimony of Don Wolf and Associates
Don Wolf, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Don Wolf and Associates, located in Woodland Hills CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Don Wolf and Associates to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof Don Wolf and Associates, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Don Wolf and Associates did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Don Wolf and Associates believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Williams-Pyro, Inc.
Della Williams, President/CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of theWilliams-Pyro Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing the my company to submit testimony for the record. As President of Williams-Pryo, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

Williams-Pyro, Inc. designs and manufactures equipment that prevents U.S. weapons from destroying our own carriers. For more than forty years, Williams-Pyro, Inc. has designed and manufactured weapon systems test equipment, which tests for spurious current or voltage. Without this equipment, weapons could be loaded onto carriers charged with spurious current, causing the missiles to misfire—destroying the carrier and lives of service men and women.

Williams-Pyro, Inc. is not limited to developing weapons test equipment. In fact, WPI has designed and manufactured more than 200 unique products and has clientele in government, energy, gas and oil exploration, retail, insurance, public service (fire departments), and residential housing industries. This woman-owned small business has been producing innovations in Fort Worth, Texas, since 1963. WPI has received 47 U.S. patents and developed a current product line of more than 100 types of military and industrial electrical connectors and fasteners. Most of WPI's products fit into one of four categories: (1) weapon systems test equipment, (2) RFID-based automated systems, (3) geophysical products, and (4) fire safety devices.

WPI has won numerous research grants from the Department of Defense, as well as NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Transportation. Most recent innovations have concerned RFID-based technologies and condition-based maintenance. Some specific innovations under development include an arc fault locator for use in aircraft, a

condition-based maintenance system to monitor the health of machinery spaces onboard Navy ships, and an RFID-based configuration management system.

Situation

When TMAC first started working with WPI in 1997, WPI had 11 employees. Nine years later, Williams-Pyro, Inc. employs nearly 100 people. The R&D department had grown from one employee to 19 engineers, 3 technical writers, and 2 technology-focused marketing representatives. WPI wanted to manage both their growth of product mix and the increase in the staffing levels required to sustain their R&D efforts. WPI turned to TMAC for assistance with short term and long term strategic planning. TMAC's Strategic Business Solutions Group was selected for the job.

Solution

WPI's management team met to deploy a TMAC-inspired Strategic Plan, which set real goals and named the employees responsible for achieving them. Among the considerations WPI addressed were development, grant assistance, prototyping, marketing, production, and sales. TMAC and WPI continue to meet annually to revisit goals and results which are always well exceeded. WPI and TMAC have worked on nearly 40 projects together, including automation of the explosive capsule device for their StoveTop FireStop product, design and implementation of a Quality Management System, Lean Manufacturing training and techniques and a host of other process improvements on both the production and administrative/management side of the business.

Results

WPI has experienced double-digit revenue growth every year since 1997 and developed a diversified customer base by increasing their industry customers from 40 percent to 70 percent. Because of its dedication to the planning process and structured growth strategy, WPI has attained a customer satisfaction rate of 80 percent. However, the most impressive statistic is the development and marketing of a new product that led to a 3,500 percent increased customer base!

"Clearly, TMAC has given us direction," Williams says. "Where we were once flying by the seat of our pants, we're now planning; and this planning is enabling Williams-Pyro, Inc. to grow its product line, profits, and dreams."

Williams-Pyro, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Kittyhawk Products Inc.
Dennis Poor, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Kittyhawk Products Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Kittyhawk Products Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As President of the Kittyhawk Products Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Kittyhawk Products Inc. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Kittyhawk Products Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Rapid Tooling, Inc.
Dion Casto, Chief Technical Officer
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Rapid Tooling Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Chief Technical Officer at Rapid Tooling, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

RAPID Tooling Inc. was established in 1994 as a design house for custom "Quick Turn" tooling for the electronic assembly industry. With mechanical designers, machinists and machining facilities on site, they can go from concept to tool in a very short time.

Situation:
Speed, efficiency, and quality have been paramount to Rapid Tooling's success. But in 2005 the company started to outgrow the capabilities of its business process and customer orders were being delayed. Key symptoms included management structure issues, scheduling/delivery delays, and inconsistent quoting and project costs. The owners, Dee Claybrook and Dion Casto, were looking for a solution when a friend told them about the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC). All it took was a phone call and both were convinced they had found the right partner to lead the improvement.

TMAC Goes to Work:
TMAC specialist, Randy Bohannon met with Rapid Tooling to get hands-on experience with the facility and to fully understand their needs. The first step was to identify strategic issues. They agreed on four goals which formed the foundation of their project plan:

- Establish a quality management system (QMS)
- Define and implement a quote process

- Define and implement a system to control procurement and usage of materials and purchased parts
- Establish a sales plan and budgeting process to provide 20% growth with 15% EBITDA Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization

In April of 2006 implementation began. To satisfy the project goals, ISO 9001:2000 QMS was selected. This accomplished defining and documenting key business processes and establishing key performance measures. Staff was hired to develop job definitions and document responsibilities. Now a system was in place to set objectives, measure results and meet company goals. In order to ensure smooth transition and proper maintenance of the system, TMAC trained all personnel and appointed internal auditors to examine compliance. In December 2006, Rapid Tooling received their ISO 9001:2000 registration. "We learned to work as a team," said Casto. Simple mistakes that used to cause big problems have been eliminated.

Results:
Even in 2006 while the plan was being implemented the investment Rapid Tooling made started to pay off:

- **Customer on-time delivery improved from 40% in Feb, to over 70% by year-end**
- **The company earned customer satisfaction ratings of 4.4 on a 5 point scale**
- **Vendor delivery steadily improved throughout the year to 74% – and continues to improve**
- **Vendor quality continued at a near perfect level – 99.6% for 2006**

Sales went up to record levels. Orders and shipments exceeded the goal outlined in the project plan by 20% and 21% for the last 9 months of 2006. The extra revenue allowed Rapid Tooling to make more than $250,000 in new equipment purchases to support the growth. Now, Rapid Tooling has a system in place to do what it does best: make custom tools, **fast.**

County: *Collin*
Industry: *Electronic Assembly; Tool manufacturing* www.rapidtool.com
TMAC Services Provided: *Quality Management System, Strategic Planning*

Rapid Tooling, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and row the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Don Wolf and Associates
Don Wolf, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Don Wolf and Associates, located in Chatsworth CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Don Wolf and Associates to submit testimony for the record. As President of Don Wolf and Associates, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Don Wolf and Associates did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Don Wolf and Associates believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of 2nd Source Wire & Cable
Donna Silvers, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of 2nd Source Wire & Cable, located in Brea California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing 2nd Source Wire & Cable to submit testimony for the record. As President of 2nd Source Wire & Cable, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work 2nd Source Wire & Cable did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

2nd Source Wire & Cable believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectively

Donna L Silvers

2nd Source Wire & Cable, Inc

Testimony of West Coast Vibratory Feeders
Doug Wilcox, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of West Coast Vibratory Feeders, located in Riverside California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing West Coast Vibratory Feeders to submit testimony for the record. As Owner of West Coast Vibratory Feeders, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work West Coast Vibratory Feeders did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

West Coast Vibratory Feeders believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Cortegra Group Inc.
Tom Dywer, Production Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Cortegra Group Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Production Manager** of the **Cortegra Group Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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With Lean Manufacturing assistance from NJMEP we were able to take advantage of a record breaking sales year by matching it with record breaking output from our plant. NJMEP provided the Lean assistance that allowed us to increase our capacity and meet our growing customer demand.

Cortegra Group Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Diversified Foam Products Inc
Edward M. Janes MBA, Executive Vice President for Manufacturing & Operations
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

The Manufacturing sector has taken a continued beating in our economy for many years. If America's manufacturers are going to compete in any way on a global basis, we need some assistance to improve our businesses to reduce costs in order to deal with the high cost of

- health insurance
- environmental controls
- property and casualty insurance
- lawsuits / legal matters
- educating our employees

One of the few resources available to manufactures from a government support level is the MEP. Not funding this vital program will further complicate and undermine our efforts to compete in the global economy.

On behalf of the **Diversified Foam Products Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Director of Operations** of the **Diversified Foam Products Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We recently completed a full Lean Project in onr manufacturing facility, creating 20 new jobs and retaining 35 others."Without NJMEP's vision, assistance, encouragement and expertise our improvements in inventory and flow would not have occured as rapidly as it has."

Diversified Foam Products Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Stealth Microwave Inc,
Ed Reitter, Director of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Stealth Microwave**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Director of Operations** of **Stealth Microwave, Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP completed a Lean Opportunity Assessment that started us on our way to a Lean transformation. Utilizing the training program developed, we have been implementing plans to improve our company. Our cash flow is improving through inventory reduction and we have been implementing poke-yoke techniques to improve quality which has a significant impact on customer satisfaction. Our workforce is very engaged in work cell flow efficiency. All these improvement techniques are transferable skills and have been embraced to keep Stealth Microwave, Inc. a viable company and structured to fight the foreign competition.

Stealth Microwave, Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of New Jersey Micro-Electronic Testing Inc.
Edgar Usman, Quality Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **New Jersey Micro-Electronic Testing Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Quality Manager** of **New Jersey Micro-Electronic Testing Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has provided us with assistance in gaining certification to both the ISO 9001 and AS9100 standards. This has been very helpful in maintaining and growing our customer base.

New Jersey Micro-Electronic Testing Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

EQUIPMENT
Direct

"Where Safety Comes First"

May 21, 2008

Testimony of Equipment Direct
Ted Jass, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Equipment Direct, located in Brea California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Equipment Direct to submit testimony for the record. As President of Equipment Direct, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal. Speaking specifically of the work Equipment Direct did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Equipment Direct believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Ted Jass

Testimony of the FJA Inc.
Frank Abatangelo, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the FJA Inc, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company FJA Inc to submit testimony for the record. As President of the FJA Inc, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program that is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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As a Resource for NJMEP, I have worked with the organization and their clients. Clients have benefited from the program and have realized cost savings and sales growth that have allowed employment to be held or increased.

Therefore, I Frank Abatangelo President of FJA Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology that is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully Yours,
Frank Abatangelo
21 High Ridge Road
Ocean, New Jersey 07712

Testimony of EJH Executive Business Management Services, LLC
Edward J. Hanker, Jr. -Principal
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of EJH Executive Business Management Services, LLC (EEBMS, LLC), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Principal of EEBMS, LLC, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program that is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

MEP facilitates relationships between small to mid-sized companies and industry experts in various fields of manufacturing, materials, operations and logistics management, to name just a few areas of concentration, to which these companies would not otherwise have access. The time and cost to these companies to develop these kinds of resources internally would be prohibitive and not timely in most cases. The MEP network provides expertise and guidance to companies that can result in immediate benefits to the company's overall effectiveness and profitability leading to the job retention and creation noted in the previous paragraph. In addition, the use of independent industry experts leads to cross pollination of lessons learned and best practices that would again not be available to most small to mid-sized companies. MEP is a tremendous catalyst for keeping our companies strong and competitive and represents a tremendous return-on-investment when you consider the financial impacts noted above.

EEBMS, LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology, which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,
Edward J. Hanker, Jr.

FLASH
ph 973.677.3500 / fax 973.674.1529 / www.selectoflash.com
18 Central Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052-5231 USA

Testimony of Selecto-Flash Inc.
Valerie Shondel, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Selecto-Flash Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **CEO** of **Selecto-Flash**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

The ISO 9001 process has helped us to make improvements to our operating system and reduce errors and defects. This in turn has resulted in reduced scrap rates and improved customer satisfaction. To acheive this training NJMEP helped us secure a grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development of which we are very appreciative.

Selecto-Flash believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Harvey's
Elvia Rojas, Plant Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Harvey's, located in Santa Ana California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Harvey's to submit testimony for the record. As Plant Manager of Harvey's, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Harvey's did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Harvey's believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Belfer Lighting Mfg. Co.
Fidel Oliva, Vice President of Manufacturing
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Belfer Lighting Mfg. Co.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President of Manufacturing** of the **Belfer Lighting Mfg. Co.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Starting with a Lean Opportunity Assessment,conducted by NJMEP, our company embarked on a Lean Transformation project on two of our most important product lines. The first phase of our Lean Transformation concentrated on streamlining the operations within our primary assembly area. We were able to increase production rates through the application of cellular manufacturing techniques and we laid the groundwork for a full Kanban system to be implemented in subsequent phases. The second phase of our Lean Transformation paralleled the first in another of our critical assembly areas. Introduction of the Kanban was extended and became more fully realized resulting in improvements in component and product flow. Work is proceeding to expand the Kanban to our Fabrication area. Through a combination of NJMEP initiative, the expertise of their Lean resources and our own internal efforts, we reduced our lead time by 32%, our WIP inventory by 21% in our 2800 series product line. As a result, we have created 6 new jobs and we estimate our cost savings at $375,000 annually. These efforts continue in our other lines and we fully expect to achieve similar results. We are very appreciative to the NJMEP for providing the impetus and the resources necessary to begin the transformation of our company to a world-class manufacturing enterprise

Belfer Lighting Mfg. Co. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Akcros Chemicals Inc
Erin Marques, HR
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Akcros Chemicals Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **HR Administrator** of **Akcros Chemicals Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has facilitated our previous years' Lean training and application for a training grant this year. We are happy for their services and look forward to working with them more in the future.

Akcros Chemicals Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Five Star Building Products Inc.
Dan Politi, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Five Star Building Products Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Five Star Building Products Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Five Star Building Products manufactures Aluminum Storm Windows and Doors and Vinyl Replacement Windows. NJMEP helped us formulate our plans to obtain an ISO program. They prepared a Gap Analysis which enabled us to determine the best approach to take and the exact courses needed to prepare for the ISO. Then NJMEP trained us to examine all areas of the business in depth resulting in a better understanding of our operations.

Five Star Building Products Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

www.cereplast.com
3421-3433 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 / Tel. (310) 676-5000 / Fax. (310) 676-5003

Testimony of Cereplast Inc.
Frederic Scheer, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Cereplast Inc., a manufacturer of bioplastic resins in Southern California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Cereplast Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As CEO of Cereplast Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Cereplast Inc. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program making our company better organized and more competitive. Due to their work Cereplast was able to create over 50 salaried positions in about 18 months.

Cereplast Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Frederic Scheer, Chairman & CEO

Testimony of the Artex Knitting Mills Inc.
Gary Rothchild, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Artex Knitting Mills Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of the **Artex Knitting Mills Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The results of the free Quickview Assessment shed light on areas of our operation on which we need to focus. In this very competitive garment industry in which we are one of the last Mohicans's, it is important to us to have resources such as NJMEP to call upon for their help

Artex Knitting Mills Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of International Rollforms
Gary DerHagopian, VP
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the International Rollforms, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As VP of the International Rollforms, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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International Rollforms attained ISO 9001 registration with the assistance of NJMEP. Increasing competition and emerging markets overseas necessitated our acquisition of the ISO registration. Working with the NJMEP allowed us to leverage our limited resources and helped make the process much easier.

International Rollforms believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,
Gary DerHagopian
International Rollforms, Inc.

CITY THEATRICAL INC

March 24, 2008

Testimony of City Theatrical Inc.
Gary Fails, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **City Theatrical Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. **As President of City Theatrical**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We are actively working with and receiving support from NJMEP. Their technical assistance has been very valuable to our growing company. Their guidance in helping us select the appropriate software technology to support our future needs is critical to our continued success.

City Theatrical believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely yours,

President

475 BARELL AVENUE, CARLSTADT, NJ 07072
800/230/9497 201/549/1160 201/549/1161 FAX
www.citytheatrical.com

Testimony of PacWind, Inc.
Gary Toomey, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of PacWind, Inc., located in Torrance California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing PacWind, Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As CEO of PacWind, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work PacWind, Inc. did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

PacWind, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Caravan Manufacturing Inc.
Geoff Bennett, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Caravan Manufacturing Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Caravan Manufacturing Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As President of Caravan Manufacturing Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Caravan Manufacturing Inc. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Caravan Manufacturing Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Amerex-Zetron
George Bell, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Amerex-Zetron, located in Carson California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Amerex-Zetron to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof Amerex-Zetron, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Amerex-Zetron did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Amerex-Zetron believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

GEORGE L. BELL
PRESIDENT/C.E.O.
AMREX-ZETRON INC.
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Testimony of Aluminum Precision Products Inc-Forge Division
Gerald Bornman, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Aluminum Precision Products Inc-Forge Division, located in Santa Ana CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Aluminum Precision Products Inc-Forge Division to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of Aluminum Precision Products Inc-Forge Division, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically of the work Aluminum Precision Products Inc-Forge Division did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we engaged them to assist us with a Streamlined Tool Design implementation which resulted in the following bottom-line impacts for our company.

Sales Increase: $500,000.00
Retained Sales: 2,000,000.00
Employees Retained: 42
Cost Savings: $255,000.00
Investment in Our Plant and Workforce: $154,500.00
Increased Productivity: 15%
Increased Competitiveness: 2.0 %

This support from CMTC led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a manufacturer in a globally competitive marketplace we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Aluminum Precision Products Inc-Forge Division believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

3333 W. Warner Avenue, Santa Ana, California 92704 Phone: (714) 546-8125 Fax: (714) 545-7165

Testimony of Delafield Corporation
Hamdy Youssef, Corporate Quality Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Delafield Corporation, located in Duarte California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Delafield Corporation to submit testimony for the record. As Quality Managerof Delafield Corporation, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Delafield Corporation did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Delafield Corporation believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Hamdy Youssef
Corporate Quality manager
Deladfield Corporation
(626)-303-0740 Ext. 3601
hamdy@dftmail.net

Testimony of the Blickman Health Industries Inc.
Greg Hampson, Controller
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Blickman Health Industries Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Controller of the Blickman Health Industries Inc., I am writing to respeetfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Blickman Inc. is a stainless steel fabricator of health care equipment that recently received the free services of NJMEP. The feedback from the analysis provided us with insight on our operational and financial performance against other firms within our industry class, as well as identifying opportunities for improvement. Also, I have witnessed NJMEP being proactive in helping manufacturers like Blickman strengthen their competitive posture.

Blickman Health Industries Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Electro-Tech Machining
Greg Rosa, Production Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Electro-Tech Machining, located in Long Beach California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Electro-Tech Machining to submit testimony for the record. As Production Managerof Electro-Tech Machining, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Electro-Tech Machining did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Electro-Tech Machining believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Lynch Industries
Greg Hammell, VP of Production
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Lynch Industries**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **VP of Production** of the **Lynch Industries**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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This project has been very effective. I have received very positive feedback from my employees. This will allow our project management teams to handle the information flow in a more productive manner

Lynch Industries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Greg Hammell
V-P Production
Lynch Exhibits
609-387-1600
ghammell@lynchexhibits.com

Testimony of Precision Manufacturing Group, LLC
Glenn Weinrich, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Precision Manufacturing Group LLC, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President of PMG, LLC, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The Customized Training Grant was a catalyst for various improvement projects. The mapping approach yielded improved efficiency (specifically in paperwork report elimination) at the onset. Manufacturing inefficiencies were observed and are now targeted for improvement. Ongoing internal training programs increase the likelihood of employee retention and minimize losses due to turnover. ISO certification will enhance the opportunities in the global Aerospace and Medical markets allowing for the continued growth and success of Precison Manufacturing Group, LLC.

Precision Manufacturing Group believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully,

Glenn A. Weinrich

Testimony of the
David Givler General Manager of NFI Industries Distribution Center
Located in Burlington New Jersey
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

As an employee of **National Freight** I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **General Manager** of National Freight's facility at 400 Richards Run, Burlington, NJ I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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"NJMEP has provided us with a complete blueprint for our continuous improvement efforts, as a result of Mapping our distribution process, we have identified over $250,000 of potential savings, thus ensuring our continued success."

I believe that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,
David Givler

Testimony of the Trek Connect, Inc.
Harold Heft, General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Trek Connect, Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record.

Trek Connect is a small, woman-owned business located in New Jersey that designs and builds critical electronic and fiber-optic components for national defense and homeland security.

As **General Manager** of the **Trek Connect, Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Since Trek Connect's association with NJMEP in 2002, we have continued to improve our business. With this collaboration we have increased our sales by over 25% and created 10 new positions and retained 22 incumbent positions. NJMEP is a resource we cannot afford to lose.

Trek Connect, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy. **We respectfully ask that the program be funded again for 2009.**

Testimony of Precision Technology Inc.
Harry Sutaria, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Precision Technology, Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As CEO of Precision Technology, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

Since 1980 Precision Technology Inc. has been manufacturing circuit board assemblies for major companies throughout Dallas/Fort Worth. Customers include Texas Instruments, Luminator Aircraft, NASA, Century Flights, Westinghouse, DRS, Photo-Etch, Toshiba and more. To support their previous growth, PTI chose The Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) as a resource to develop and implement their quality management system. After moving to a new building in the fall of 2001, Harry Sutaria, CEO, contacted TMAC, and the roots of a successful relationship were established. In January 2003, PTI successfully passed their initial registration audit with flying colors. PTI continued to utilize TMAC services. Members of the management team participated in the Enterprise Excellence Breakfast Workshop Series sponsored by TMAC. TMAC continues to support the implementation of the quality management system through periodic coaching and support meetings.

Situation

In 2007, PTI ownership recognized a unique opportunity for growth – acquire a competitor. The result immediately doubled the size of their company!

This opportunity came with many challenges – financing, management structure, facility/infrastructure, two different company cultures, two different quality management

systems … quite a list. To address financing issues, PTI restructured their ownership to include two new partners. To address the other issues, they once again called on TMAC.

Solution

Neither facility was large enough to accommodate the resulting organization, so PTI management identified a new facility in Plano. A TMAC layout specialist then led a project for the layout of the new facility and the coordination of the move. This project was successfully completed in August, 2007, with a minimum of disruption to ongoing operations.

The merging companies were both ISO 9001 registered, but with different documented systems, different registrars, and different cultures. One of TMAC's quality management specialists agreed to work with the new PTI management team to address both the culture issues and the integration of the two quality management systems. Over a period of several months, these issues were addressed, and registration of the new, integrated system was successful in February, 2008.

Impact

The immediate result of these projects was a successful new company in a 40,000 square foot, static-free, air-conditioned building, twice the size of the original, functioning in a new, state of the art facility with ample room for growth. The specific impact includes approximately **$10.3M** sales with **$4.8M** in retained sales and the opportunity of an estimated **$3M** in additional sales in the coming year. These sales numbers represent approximately **18** new jobs along with the retention of **60** others. In addition, there were internal cost savings of approximately **$125K**. Defects (**.2%**) and customer returns are (**1.2%**) both well under control.

Harry Sutaria, CEO, summed up the projects successes by saying "Our team at PTI is thankful to TMAC for their support in working hands on with us to succeed."

County: *Dallas*
Industry: *Printed Circuit Board & Electro-Mechanical Assemblies; Current Carrying Wire & Cable Assemblies*
NAICS: *334412, 334418 & 335931*
Services Provided: *Facility layout/relocation, ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System training & implementation, business coaching*
Contact: Harry Sutaria *at* 214-343-0131
www.ptiassembly.com

Precision Technology, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and row the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the [COMPANY]
[NAME, TITLE]
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Preformed Line Products to submit testimony for the record. As Plant Manager of the Preformed Line Products, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We at Preformed Line Products have used AMS (Arkansas Manufacturing solutions for our lean support over the past 5 years. During the last two years we have started to see significant improvement and savings on the bottom line. In 2006 we realized productivity improvements of over 600k and in 2007 we saw this number jump to over 1mm on an annual basis. In order to compete in today's ferocious manufacturing arena you have to relentlessly persue continuous improvement and standardization in order to remain competitive and be able to provide your customers the value they are looking for. Without the support we have received from this organization we would not be where we are today. They have helped accelerate the lean movement for Preformed Line Products and made us more stable and competitive in the process.

Preformed Line Products believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the BAE Systems Information & Electronic Systems Integration Inc.
Stephen Herman, Director Quality Assurance
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **BAE Systems Information & Electronic Systems Integration Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Director Quality Assurance** of the **BAE Systems Communication and Tactical Networks** business area, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP's assistance in applying for a NJDOL Grant for the C++ and Lean Office courses was invaluable and, in fact, was the key enabler that allowed us to commit the resources to take the courses and to follow them up with productive tasking. We look forward to working with NJMEP in the coming year as we continue on our path of becoming a World Class Developer and Manufacturer of communication systems for the US Government.

BAE Systems Information & Electronic Systems Integration Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully,
Stephen A. Herman
Performance Excellence – Quality Assurance
BAE Systems, C&TN
Ph (973) 305-2020
Cell (973)714-2369
Fax (973) 395-2029
Email: stephen.herman@baesystems.com

Testimony of Chimex
Guillermo Hernandez, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Chimex, located in Ontario California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Chimex to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Chimex, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Chimex did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Chimex believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Molex
EHS Manager, J'Ne Hutson
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Molex to submit testimony for the record. As EHS Manager, Molex, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the MEP is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The assistance provided by Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions through their Technology Transfer Grant Program allowed us to retain 26 jobs that would have been lost as well as creating 3 new jobs. We were able to retain over 2 million in sales and over 10 million in increased sales. We were able to save several contracts and to continue to improve our safety and manufacturing processes. This is an excellent program that provides a much needed service to manufacturers in Arkansas.

Molex believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully requested,

J'Ne Hutson, REM
Sr. EHS Engineer

Testimony of the Molex
EHS Manager, J'Ne Hutson
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Molex to submit testimony for the record. As EHS Manager, Molex, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the MEP is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

The assistance provided by Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions through their Technology Transfer Grant Program allowed us to retain 26 jobs that would have been lost as well as creating 3 new jobs. We were able to retain over 2 million in sales and over 10 million in increased sales. We were able to save several contracts and to continue to improve our safety and manufacturing processes. This is an excellent program that provides a much needed service to manufacturers in Arkansas.

Molex believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully requested,

J'Ne Hutson, REM
Sr. EHS Engineer

Testimony of American Railcar Industries, Inc.
Dean Inman, Senior HR Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing American Railcar Industries, Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Senior HR Manager for American Railcar Industries, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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AMS has assisted our company with Lean Manufacturing Training and Implementation over the past years. The results include over $9.5 million in increased and retained sales, $400 thousand in inventory reduction, over $30 million in increased investment in plant equipment and retention/creation of nearly 200 jobs.

American Railcar Industries, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Inman Mold & Manufacturing Company Inc.
Glen Barlics, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Inman Mold & Manufacturing Company Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Inman Mold & Manufacturing Company Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Because of the NJMEP help on our website, we were able to generate new leads and sales for our business.

Inman Mold & Manufacturing Company Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

ITW Thielex /Maxigrip /Plastiglide /Richmond Technology
an Illinois Tool Works Company

ITW Electronic Component Packaging Systems
95 Commerce Drive, Somerset, New Jersey 08873
Phone: 732-873-5500 Fax: 732-873-0015

Testimony of the I T W Thielex
Henry Swain, General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **I T W Thielex**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **General Manager** of the **I T W Thielex**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Sales and profitability in 2006 rose to a 5-year all time high, while maintaining headcount. The training we received enabled us to compete locally and internationally. We were able to handle the additional sales without increasing the number of people. Our trainers worked diligently and very effectively with ITW's diverse workforce.

I T W Thielex believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Henry L. Swain

Testimony of Garden State Precast
J. Kirby O'Malley, Sr., President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Garden State Precast**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Garden State Precast**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company completed both a QuickView Assessment and a Lean Opportunity Assessment conducted by NJMEP. Several of our staff also attended a Lean Worshop at NJMEP and as a result of these initiatives we are currently implementing a Lean Transformation within our facility. We were able to target specific areas in which we can improve our company by lowering operating costs, reducing waste and improving our profitability. We continue to work with NJMEP to become a more profitable, streamlined company. In order to stay ahead in a very competitive business - or even stay in business at all - we must continue to improve all of our manufacturing processes. We feel that the NJMEP is a very effective way to do that."

Garden State Precast believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Asbury Park Press
Jack Roth, Vice President Production
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

As Vice President Production for the Asbury Park Press, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company implemented a Lean Transformation project under the supervision and guidance of the NJMEP and realized immediate, tangible improvements to the operation. Employee acceptance and long term adoption of the concepts gleaned from the 5S and Value Stream Mapping sessions has been broad and reached from the vice president level to the entry level worker. The quality of the lean training program exceeded all of our expectations and the trainer excelled in facilitating the program. We extend our thanks to NJMEP for their efforts in making this Lean Transformation a success.

If the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Compex Corp
James Polites, Quality Assurance Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Compex Corp**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Quality Assurance Manager** of the **Compex Corp**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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"Our staff is dedicated to produeing the highest quality components for our customers. The registration with ISO will provide international recognition of our quality standards, help the company attract new customers, as well as provide a quality management system."

Compex Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Aguila Technologies Inc.
Janet Fox, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Aguila Technologies Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Aguila Technologies Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Owner of the Aguila Technologies Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Aguila Technologies Inc. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Aguila Technologies Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Advent Design Corporation
Jeff Hartman, Productivity Consultant
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

March 25,2008

Gentlemen:

On behalf of Advent Design Corporation, I want to thank the committee for allowing me to submit testimony for the record. I have been aware of the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the work they have been facilitating in New Jersey for the past 5 years. I am writing specifically to express my support for the national Manufacturing Extension Program that provides support to the NJMEP. **In my experience a dollar funded to the MEP generates a ten to fifteen multiplier in ROI, certainly in this new atmosphere of fiscal restraint a program of this impact can be justified.**

The MEP is a network of 59 centers and 350 locations that directly targets support for manufacturers, I have seen first hand the drain of jobs to the Far East and Mexico and do not understand how an elected official could entertain cutting this program and still look his constituents in the eye at election time. The program helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Advent Design Corporation firmly believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy and cutting the program would have a far reaching and deep negative impact.

I would ask that you support the MEP initiative and replace the funding in the President's budget.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J Hartman
Advent Design Corporation
Canal Street & Jefferson Avenue
Bristol, PA 19007
(215) 781.0500

Testimony of the CP Industries, Inc.
Jeff Pitcher, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **CP Industries, Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of **CP Industries**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The results of NJMEP's efforts have been impressive. At a time when all of our suppliers are increasing prices rapidly we've been able to maintain margins and pass along considerably fewer increases to our customers. We estimate net savings from the program will top $400,000.00 annually.

CP Industries, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

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800-837-3034

Testimony of the Baxter Healthcare Corp.
Jennifer Grace, Human Resources Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Baxter Healthcare Corp.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Human Resources Manager** of the **Baxter Healthcare Corp.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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As a result of our New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development grant training in conjunction with Camden County College and NJMEP we seen our capacity to produce 16,000,000 more vials of products, over $450,000 in direct inventory savings and reduced warehouse transactions by 7000. NJMEP opened our eyes to opportunities and worked extremely well with all of our associates. To say we are extremely pleased is an understatement, thank you DOL and NJMEP for your continued support of New Jersey manufactures

Baxter Healthcare Corp. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Jenkins Brush Co.
Eric Eucker, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Jenkins Brush Co.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of the **Jenkins Brush Co.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We could not have trained our workforce without assistance. NJMEP's Lean training helped us to focus on being more efficient. The Marketing courses resulted in us upgrading our website and creating a new advertising campaign. This was much needed to help boost our sales in a declining market

Jenkins Brush Co. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony From Decrane Aerospace/Audio International
Jeremy Hendrix, Director of Manufacturing
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Decrane Aerospace-Audio International to submit testimony for the record. As Director of Manufacturing of Decrane Aerospace-Audio International], I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The training and leadership provided by Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions has enabled Decrane Aerospace-Audio International to compete at a higher level. Continuous improvement tools and principles are sorely needed for small and large companies to be able to compete day in and day out with the rest of the world.

Decrane Aerospace-Audio International believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Fredon Development Industries
Jerry Wildrick, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Fredon Development Industries**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Fredon Development Industries**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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I purchased Fredon Development Industries at the beginning of 2006. While trying to get set up during the buying process, I came in contact with the NJMEP. I had no idea of all the information I was lacking until discussing my business plans with NJMEP. One piece of information that helped me get on track and understand how business should be run, was the Quick View Assessment that NJMEP provided. I am now beginning to develop our company's website with assistance from NJMEP. I think anyone thinking about starting up their own business, should consider listening to NJMEP and the information and experience that they have to offer.

Fredon Development Industries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Exotic Metal Grinding
Jessica Gray, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Exotic Metal Grinding, located in Carpenteria CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Exotic Metal Grinding to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Exotic Metal Grinding, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Exotic Metal Grinding did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Exotic Metal Grinding believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Exotic Metal Grinding
Jessica Gray, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Exotic Metal Grinding, located in Carpenteria CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Exotic Metal Grinding to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Exotic Metal Grinding, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Exotic Metal Grinding did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Exotic Metal Grinding believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

From Search to Success®

Testimony of the Single Throw Inc.
James Farrell, CFO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Single Throw Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my Company to submit testimony for the record. As CFO and Co-Founder of the Company, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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As a Resource for NJMEP, I have worked with the organization and their clients. Clients have benefited from the program and have realized cost savings and sales growth that have allowed employment to be held or increased. Every project has a positive ROI (return on investment) not only on the client's investment but also on the governmental investment.

Single Throw Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

1973 Route 34, Suite E-23, Wall, NJ 07719
Phone: 732.451.0820 Fax: 732.451.0823
www.SingleThrow.com

Sincerely,
James Farrell
James Farrell
CFO/Co-Founder
Single Throw Inc.
732-451-0820 ext. 102

1973 Route 34, Suite E-23, Wall, NJ 07719
Phone: 732.451.0820 Fax: 732.451.0823
www.SingleThrow.com

Testimony of the Vehicle Safety Manufacturing Inc.
Ernie Scherler, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Vehicle Safety Manufacturing Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Vehicle Safety Manufacturing Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The automotive industry requires its suppliers to become TS certified. Without this upgrade millions of dollars in sales would be at risk. NJMEP has continued to assist us in improving our Quality Management systems thereby saving significant sales and jobs.

Vehicle Safety Manufacturing Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Truarc Co. LLC
Jim Reed, Vice Presdident
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Truarc Co. LLC**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice Presdident** of the **Truarc Co. LLC**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We have benefited from the services provided by NJMEP. Over 40 jobs have been created or retained, cost savings and increased investment in operations are a result of the programs as well.

Truarc Co. LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Stull Technologies Inc.
Jeff Smith, HR Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Stull Technologies Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **HR Manager** of the **Stull Technologies Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Working with NJMEP has helped us significantly move to a training type environment where our employees are continuously being trained and developed. Programs provided has helped us a more competitive workforce and has lead to 16 new or created jobs, cost savings and increased investment in our company.

Stull Technologies Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Schiffenhaus Packaging Corp
Geoff Schiffenhaus, VP of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Schiffenhaus Packaging Corp**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **VP of Operations** of the **Schiffenhaus Packaging Corp**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Training provided by NJMEP has helped create and retain eight jobs and has provided savings to the company leading to increased investment in our operations.

Schiffenhaus Packaging Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the RathGibson Inc.
Jeff Nelb, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **RathGibson Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of the **RathGibson Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We have worked with the MEP at our Wisconsin plant and achieved fine results. NJMEP has shown strong capabilities and we look forward to working closely with them as we reduce wastes in our company. This will definitely help us maintain our presence in New Jersey.

RathGibson Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Micro Stamping Corp.
Frank Semcer, Jr, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Micro Stamping Corp.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of the **Micro Stamping Corp.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The NJMEP Program is doing a great job transforming our company into a Lean Enterprise, eliminating the waste in our operations while creating two new jobs. Savings have lead to new investments in our operations.

Micro Stamping Corp. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Kullman Industries Inc
Alexis Frank, Human Resources Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Kullman Industries Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Human Resources Manager** of the **Kullman Industries Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Improvements to our operations through training provided by NJMEP have lead to the retention of over 100 jobs. We look forward to working with them again.

Kullman Industries Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Johanson Manufacturing Corp
John Thorn, VP of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Johanson Manufacturing Corp**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **VP of Operations** of the **Johanson Manufacturing Corp**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We have a long standing relationship with NJMEP. They have provided a diversity of training from Lean Manufacturing to Quality Systems to Safety to Engineering to Human Resource training like Ethics and Sexual Harassment training. Because of our partnership we have invested approximately $200,000 in the development of our people. We have reduced our costs which has had a positive impact on sales and resulted in the creation or retention of over 20 jobs.

Johanson Manufacturing Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the G & J Steel & Tubing Inc
John Tursky, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **G & J Steel & Tubing Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **G & J Steel & Tubing Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has helped us with projects that have lead to 9 jobs created or retained. Increased sales have reulted in new investment in our operations.

G & J Steel & Tubing Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Ethicon Inc.
Sharon Mohan, Operations Training Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Ethicon Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Operations Training Manager** of the **Ethicon Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We have used NJMEP for a number of years as part of our Primary School Operations training where we bring employees in to our Somerville, New Jersey location from plants around the world. They learn the Principles of Lean and the elimination of wastes and bring that knowledge back to their various locations, improving efficiencies and realizing many, many thousands of dollars in savings.

Ethicon Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Egan Davis Standard
Carl Meixsell, Engineering Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Egan Davis Standard**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Engineering Manager** of the **Egan Davis Standard**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJ has helped us stay in New Jersey and prevent the loss of jobs to other states. They make it easier for us to implement improvements and still concentrate on running the business.

Egan Davis Standard believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Carteret Die-Casting Corp
John Mudrak, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Carteret Die-Casting Corp**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of the **Carteret Die-Casting Corp**, I am writing to respeetfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has been able to help improve our operations which has lead to 18 jobs created or retained. Savings provided by these improvements have helped provide funds for investment in our operations.

Carteret Die-Casting Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Brooklyn Cheesecake & Desserts
Ron Schutte, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Brooklyn Cheesecake & Desserts**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **CEO** of the **Brooklyn Cheesecake & Desserts**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has been a great asset with helping our company meet all the new (post 9/11) requirements of the food industry. New jobs have been created and we expect to be able to enter new markets with improvements made to our operation.

Brooklyn Cheesecake & Desserts believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Atlantic Spring Company
Jeff Van Natta, General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justiee, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Atlantic Spring Company, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As General Manager of the Atlantic Spring Company, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Projects with NJMEP have had a major impact on our business. We have been able to grow our sales and improve the efficiency of our staff. The Quickview Assessment has helped us identify areas with opportunities for improvement which has lead to reduced costs, increased sales and jobs created.

Atlantic Spring Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Voltaix Inc.
Justine Falk, Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Voltaix Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Manager** of the **Voltaix Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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I can always rely on NJMEP to provide good information and resources to help improve the business. We have created or retained 15 jobs from training and services provided by NJMEP.

Voltaix Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Solar Compounds Corporation
Joseph Barbanel, Executive Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Solar Compounds Corporation, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Executive Vice President of Solar Compounds Corporation, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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SOLAR COMPOUNDS CORPORATION'S VIEWS

Solar Compounds Corporation believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy. In particular, small manufacturing firms such as ours have disappeared at an alarming rate for decades. MEP is a means of expanding these firms and the combination of jobs and products they bring to our economy.

I would be pleased to discuss this with you. I can be reached at 908.862.2813x128 or jbarbanel@solarcompounds.com .

Thank you.

Testimony of the IntraPac
Joseph Froelich, Vice President of Quality
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of IntraPac, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of Quality at IntraPac, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our work with NJMEP began with the Quickview assessment provided to our organization free of charge which was very informative. It covered 13 different business categories and helped us see where we ranked among the other business' within the survey. Using this data, we have engaged help- and have seen significant improvements in our operations in reduction of backorders and reduced lead times. Further training through a Value Stream Map project has highlighted opportunities for further improvement that will help us keep our company viable and to protect us from losing jobs to foreign competition.

IntraPac believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Joseph B. Froelich
Vice President of Quality
IntraPac
20 Ashton Avenue
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

Testimony of the IntraPac
Joseph Froelich, Vice President of Quality
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of IntraPac, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of Quality at IntraPac, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our work with NJMEP began with the Quickview assessment provided to our organization free of charge which was very informative. It covered 13 different business categories and helped us see where we ranked among the other business' within the survey. Using this data, we have engaged help- and have seen significant improvements in our operations in reduction of backorders and reduced lead times. Further training through a Value Stream Map project has highlighted opportunities for further improvement that will help us keep our company viable and to protect us from losing jobs to foreign competition.

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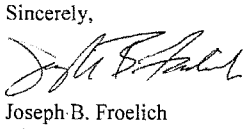
Sincerely,



Joseph B. Froelich
Vice President of Quality
IntraPac
20 Ashton Avenue
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

Testimony of the Tel-Instrument Electronics Corp
Joe Macaluso, CFO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Tel-Instrument Electronics Corp, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As CFO of the Tel-Instrument Electronics Corp, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has provided us with assistance in gaining certification to the ISO 9001standard. This has been very helpful in maintaining and growing our customer base.

Tel-Instrument Electronics Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

/s/ Joseph P. Macaluso
Joseph P. Macaluso

Testimony of Sample Marshall Laboratories Inc.
Joseph Pulzone, V.P. & G.M.
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Sample Marshall Laboratories Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **V.P. & G.M.** of **Sample Marshall Laboratories Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Becoming an ISO 9001 certified company has helped us improve our efficiency and has raised the skill level of our employees. Our customers can now be assured that we produce a high quality product on a consistent basis. It is important to note also, that as manufacturing becomes more and more globalized, many firms today require an ISO certification to be considered as a supplier; without our certification, we would have lost upwards of $ 250,000.00 in sales to European and South American companies.

Sample Marshall Laboratories Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the General Aviation & Electronics Mfg. Co
John Baker, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **General Aviation & Electronics Mfg. Co**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **General Aviation & Electronics Mfg. Co**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We used other non-profits for ISO classes but we couldn't actually get registered until the field agents from NJMEP managed the process of getting us to the finish line. Now we can begin to enjoy business from customers who require ISO as a precursor for the business relationship. This includes companies from overseas!

General Aviation & Electronics Mfg. Co believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

OMNI ENGINEERING, INC.
461 W. 6TH STREET
BEAUMONT, CALIFORNIA 92223
PHONE (951) 845-7224
FAX (951) 845-5006

PROGRESSIVE DIES
STAMPINGS

March 27, 2008

Testimony of Omni Engineering
John Cleary, Quality Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of OMNI Engineering, Inc., located in Beaumont California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing OMNI Engineering to submit testimony for record. As Quality Manager of OMNI Engineering, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you are aware, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Departments of Commerce, National Institutes of Standards and Technology, a program that is authorized to improve the competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work OMNI Engineering did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement, and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increase our productivity. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers.

OMNI Engineering believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology that is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's effort to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Should you have any questions, concerns or require additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

John Cleary
Quality Manager
OMNI Engineering, Inc.

LIPO CHEMICALS INC
207 19TH AVENUE • PATERSON, NJ 07504

Testimony of Lipo Chemicals Inc.
John Vidalis, Vice President of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Lipo Chemicals Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President, Operations** of the **Lipo Chemicals Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP conducted an ISO-9001 Internal Auditor Course at our plant site. The content of the course was excellent. The instructor kept the participants interest even though ISO-9001 auditing is a very dry subject. We at Lipo were very satisfied with the course and would recommend it to other companies

Lipo Chemicals Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

t: 973.345.8600 • f: 973.345.8365

BEAUTY IS OUR SCIENCE™
www.lipochemicals.com

Testimony of Millville Iron Works
John W. Burk, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of, **Millville Iron Works** I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of, **Millville Iron Works** I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company recently completed a skills and training assessment as conducted by NJMEP. This allowed us to take a 10,000 ft. view of our company's strengths and weaknesses and focused on those areas that will have a direct effect on the bottom line. Based on this assessment, NJMEP presented a training plan that we believe will develop our operators' skills, improve productivity and provide the basis for expanding our company's fabrication offerings. We look forward to working with NJMEP to become a more effective enterprise, and to create additional manufacturing jobs in Millville.

Millville Iron Works believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Easy to Grow Bulbs
Jim Threadgill, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Easy to Grow Bulbs, located in Oceanside California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Easy to Grow Bulbs to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof Easy to Grow Bulbs, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Easy to Grow Bulbs did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Easy to Grow Bulbs believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Brecoflex
Jonathan Weir, Applications Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Brecoflex**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Applications Engineering Manager** of the **Brecoflex**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has helped us become more competitive, more profitable and sharper. We continue to work with them on applying Lean in the manufacturing floor as well as the office and our field sales engineers. We would not have proceeded with implementing Lean without the MEP assistance. We are happy with the results.

Brecoflex believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Dupont Morses Mill Plant – Linden, NJ
Joseph Hausler, Operations Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Dupont Morses Mill Plant, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Operations Manager of the Dupont Morses Mill, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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In Dupont, we feel strongly that our people are our most valuable asset, and training and development of our people are key elements in our strategy to allow people to maximize their contributions to achieve business success. We have a workforce at this site that has no previous experience operating a chemical plant. We are grateful to NJMEP for helping us identify what training we need via the assessment, then applying for the NJ Department of Labor Customized Training grant. As a result we have been engaging our people in a series of soft skills, technical and Lean Manufacturing training to get us prepared to start up our plant in Linden, NJ. This integrated on-site sulfuric acid regeneration-sulfur gas recovery (SAR-SGR) facility will be operational in the 2nd quarter of 2008. The Morses Mill Plant not only will provide acid regeneration services for a Linden, NJ refinery, but will also provide total sulfur management for the entire facility by processing all of the sulfur bearing gases from the refinery. The twin train SAR-SGR plant will provide a reliable, cost effective, environmentally superior alternative to the refinery's alternative sulfur recovery options.

Dupont Morses Mill believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

140 Fieldcrest Avenue
Edison, New Jersey 08837
732-512-9009 Tel
732-512-9549 Fax
www.argentassociates.com

March 11, 2008

Testimony of Argent Associates, Inc.
Joyce Hart, Office Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Argent Associates Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Office Manager** of **Argent Associates**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP's soft skills training on Time Management and Microsoft Excel allowed us to serve our customers and manage our work more efficiently. In a small company having multiple businesses and various locations all over the country, we need help to juggle multiple tasks, coordinate them with the rest of the crew, and expect everyone to take over with a drop of a hat. Since our training with NJMEP, we've been able to add more businesses to our product line without having to increase payroll

Argent Associates believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Joyce Hart

Joyce Hart
Business Operations Manager

March 24, 2008

Testimony of the Pyrometer Instrument Co. Inc
Judd Parish, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Pyrometer Instrument Co. Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Pyrometer Instrument Co. Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

Pyrometer acknowledges the MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

NJMEP has been very helpful to Pyrometer. They have given us valuable insight with the ISO process and were instrumental in Pyrometer obtaining a state grant. We look forward to continuing to work with NJMEP on other projects, as well. This program is needed for the mid-sized manufacturer.

Pyrometer Instrument Co. Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Very truly yours,

Judd Parrish
Judd Parrish
Pyrometer Instrument Company, Inc.

Testimony of the Ranger Industries
Justin Russo, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Ranger Industries**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **Ranger Industries**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

We recently completed a Lean Transformation under the aegis of NJMEP. The customized training that Ranger received has had a tremendous impact on our overall operations. Our company is in a stronger position now that our employees understand and continuously implement Lean Manufacturing concepts, and our stock-outs have been minimized – which has enabled us to increase sales and revenue. We sincerely hope that we will be able to continue to work with the NJMEP to improve our manufacturing operations and position ourselves for future success.

Ranger Industries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Princeton BioMeditech Corp
Walter Kang, Finance Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Princeton BioMeditech Corp**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Finance Manager** of **Princeton BioMeditech Corp**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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"Without NJMEP's guidance and assistance, we would not have been able to undertake such a comprehensive training program. Even though we always try to focus on controlling costs, the training provided more tools for us to use, especially in Lean Manufacturing and improving teamwork. In the middle of the year, we saw a $1 million increase in sales. Because of the training, we were able to meet our customers' needs in a timely fashion."

Princeton BioMeditech Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the VCT-NJ
Karen Sodano, VP of Quality and Administrative Services
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **VCT-NJ**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President of Quality and Administrative Services** at **VCT NJ**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has provided excellent support in our attempt to obtain training to sustain our business. To help us determine what training we need, VCT-NJ used the results of the Quickview Analysis. We just completed our Lean Manufacturing and Root Cause Analysis training. We know we have a long way to go, but with NJMEP's help we are hoping to reach our goal in becoming a top tier secured credit card manufacturer and personalization facility.

VCT- NJ believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Please accept this letter as testimony on the importance that the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) has been to our company to improve the skill level and retention of our employees in this competitive market.

Sincerely,
Karen Sodano
Vice President of Quality and Administrative Services

Testimony of Anchor Packaging
Keith Gammill, Continuous Improvement Bus. Leader
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Anchor Packaging to submit testimony for the record. As Continuous Improvement Business Leader for Anchor Packaging, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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AMS has assisted our company with Lean Manufacturing Training and Implementation. The results included nearly $200 thousand in increased sales, over $1.7 million in inventory reduction and over $125 thousand in other savings.

Anchor Packaging believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Middle Atlantic Products, Inc.

March 13, 2008

Testimony of the Middle Atlantic Products
Keith Carney, VP of Engineering and Quality Assurance
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Middle Atlantic Products, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As VP of Engineering and Quality of the Middle Atlantic Products, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

On behalf of the Middle Atlantic Products' Executive Committee I would like to recognize NJMEP's efforts. The organization has been an excellent assist to Middle Atlantic Products in a series of projects. The Quickview Assessment, performed without charge, brought out opportunities some of which became part of our Strategic Plan. We have reviewed the report (at committee meetings) with the intention of using it to make us a better organization. NJMEP has provided vital training to our Development Engineering staff on utilizing plastics and education on the various processing methods, and most recently have provided an excellent review of our design process that will facilitate improved product design and delivery. On the Materials Management side they have facilitated review of our part numbering system to make it more robust and adaptable to an ever-expanding product offering. On the building side they coordinated a study to predict impact of noise issues in our new building relative to the layout and installation of several new pieces of equipment. Assistance has been provided in areas such as compliance to European Directives on Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) in order to grow our business in overseas markets. NJMEP delivered two Introduction to Lean Programs and rarely do we get such unanimously positive feedback on a course provided to our employees. The combination and balance between the theory and practical application exercises made this one of the most informative and useful training programs the company has ever conducted. NJMEP activities have helped to generate savings and sales in excess of the program's cost. This year we look forward to continued assistance through management of a NJ training grant that NJMEP facilitated.

an ISO 9001:2000 Registered Company
middleatlantic.com • 300 Fairfield Road • Fairfield, New Jersey 07004-1932 V: 973-839-1011 • F: 973-839-1976

Middle Atlantic Products believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy. Companies like ours need that assistance. We fully understand budget constraints but the test needs to be are the services value-added and cost-effective. Our experience with MEP tells us that the answer is a resounding "yes". We again, respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

On behalf of Middle Atlantic Products, Inc. we thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Keith E. Carney
VP of Engineering and Quality Assurance
Middle Atlantic Products, Inc.

www.middleatlantic.com
North Corporate Drive • P.O. Box 29 • Riverdale, New Jersey 07457 973-839-1011 • Fax: 973-835-0684

Testimony of the Mincing Overseas Spice Company
Kaushik Jobanputra, CFO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Mincing Overseas Spice Company**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **CFO** of the **Mincing Overseas Spice Company**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP assisted us to secure our training grant and put all the training in place for Mincing. We have completed the Organizational Development and Sales and Marketing training, and we are happy for the results. We are now in the process of learning about Lean Manufacturing and getting ready to train on computers and Root Cause Analysis. This will help us with our goal to make Mincing a world-class company."

Mincing Overseas Spice Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Improving Tomorrow
Kevin Horn, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Improving Tomorrow, located in Long Beach CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Improving Tomorrow to submit testimony for the record. As CEOof Improving Tomorrow, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Improving Tomorrow did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Improving Tomorrow believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Clean Industry Systems
Kevan Elfsrud, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Clean Industry Systems, located in Hisperia California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Clean Industry Systems to submit testimony for the record. As President of Clean Industry Systems, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Clean Industry Systems did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Clean Industry Systems believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

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http://www.microprecisionswiss.com

MICRO PRECISION SWISS

Testimony of Keller Engineering
Kent Morrison, Director of Quality Assurance
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Keller Engineering, located in Torrance California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Keller Engineering to submit testimony for the record. As Director of Quality Assuranceof Keller Engineering, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Keller Engineering did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that will hopefully lead us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers.

Keller Engineering believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology that is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Regards,

Kent Morrison
Director of Quality
Orchid Orthopedic Solutions

Testimony of Minteq International Inc

Kenneth Trested, Plant Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Minteq International Inc plant in Old Bridge, NJ, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Plant Manager of Minteq International Inc in Old Bridge, NJ, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.
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52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy.
The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

The meeting with NJMEP's Rich Reale (our consultant) was very good. We made a lot of progress on the Mission and got some insights on working on a Vision statement which will take us some time. Like last year with the 4 sessions on Supervisory Management skills training, this session went well. We're very pleased with the results and our ability to work as a team, communicate, and come together with results. Our challenge now is to follow-through so that we can sustain the management skills we were taught.
Thanks to NJMEP.

Minteq International Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.
Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Trested
Plant Manager
MINTEQ International, Inc.

Testimony of the Opex Corporation
John Kretzu, Pruduction Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Opex, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Pruduction Manager for Opex, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We recently had NJMEP run a Lean Manufacturing overview class for a group of our key employees. *The feeback from the attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. We are working to improve our internal procedures and this training has been extremely valuable to us. We are planning additional training classes and we will continue to work with NJMEP for future projects.*

Opex management believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Opex Corporation
John Kretzu, Pruduction Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Opex, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Pruduction Manager for Opex, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Testimony of the United States Gypsum Company
Mitchell Koss, Plant Controller
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **United States Gypsum Company**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Plant Controller** of the **United States Gypsum Company**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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I am very pleased by the results of our NJMEP training program. In recent townhall meetings, surprisingly enough, I got a lot of feedback that the "soft Skills" training was perhaps the most important and useful training in the program. We have been getting a lot more (brilliant) ideas from people from the floor and our implementation team has actively been pursuing them. Doing the organizational development program at the front end of Lean was the right thing to do. We are now in full-swing with Lean and are optimistic of the results.

United States Gypsum Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Wine Environment
Larry Kendall, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Wine Environment, located in Orange California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Wine Environmrnt to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Wine Environmrnt, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Wine Environmrnt did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Wine Environmrnt believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Convertech, Inc.
Larry Taitel, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Convertech, Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **Convertech**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Convertech manufactures Pneumatic Core Holders for the Converting Industry. I have been pleased with the attention that NJ MEP gives to small manufacturers in New Jersey. We recently have used their services to assist in our selection of an ERP/CRM System.

Convertech believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Latin Specialties Inc.
Javier Von Sydow, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Latin Specialties Inc., located in Los Angeles California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Latin Specialties Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof Latin Specialties Inc., I am writing to address specifically of the work Latin Specialties Inc. did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to better productivity and education. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on wholesalers. In short, our business has been able to make necessary strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. We credit their work with helping our business.

Latin Specialties Inc. believes that the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation is necessary to compete in this turbulent economical environment. MEP is a most important program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Unlimited Services of Wisconsin, Inc.
William Kessenich, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Unlimited Services of Wisconsin, Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President of Unlimited Services of Wisconsin, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

We currently employ 230 citizens primarily from Oconto and Marinette counties. We have grown our business in the last twelve years from $6 million in sales to over $30 million both through organic growth and through acquisitions including a location in Mexico. We are an OEM supplier of wire harness assembles to companies like Oshkosh Truck and Seagrave, both large manufacturers in Wisconsin. We have benefited greatly from the lean training that the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) has provided us!

Unlimited Services of Wisconsin believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Datastore
Greg Jeske, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Datastore, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President of Datastore, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Datastore is a small company in southern Wisconsin that images business records. We have facilities in Milwaukee and Madison with 45 full-time people in our digital imaging department.

Just over two years ago we were seeking a management consultant to help us streamline our operations in order to stay competitive with national firms we compete with every day. The Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) was recommended to us as a consulting resource for companies our size.

We view our service as a manufacturing process, even though it is done completely in an office environment. WMEP confirmed that assessment and recommended installing "lean manufacturing" to make us more efficient. We decided to proceed and were very pleased with how professionally it was taught to our team. It was installed in a relatively short time frame and, more importantly, at a price we could absorb. There is no question the positive impact WMEP had on our efficiency as we have the metrics that provide.

The services WMEP provides are normally not within reach of small firms. I want to urge you to continue to support WMEP's significant work.

Datastore believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Centrisys Corporation
William Fairbarin, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Centrisys Corporation, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of Centrisys, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company is located in Kenosha, Wisconsin and employs about 45 people to manufacture decanter centrifuges. These centrifuges are used to dewater sludge for waste treatment, food processing or environmental cleanup. We moved from Illinois to Kenosha in the year 2000 and continually feel that the move was the right decision.

About two years ago we participated in a program offered by the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP). The WMEP offered to prepare the company for ISO certification. The process took only a few months because of the guidance and expertise provided by the WMEP staff. They set goals for each portion of the project and with their help we were able to progress at a very rapid pace. The certifying organization was very impressed with the quality of the required documentation and quickly confirmed our certification.

Because of the size of our company, we do not have the resources to accomplish projects such as this on our own. Having resources available to encourage companies like ours to grow and improve our products and the manufacturing process are key to the development of the manufacturing base in Wisconsin.

Centrisys believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Trans-Coil, Inc.
Steven Copp, President & Chief Operating Officer
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Trans-Coil, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President and Chief Operating Officer of the company, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Trans-Coil Inc. is a Milwaukee, Wisconsin-based company. Our company manufactures electro-mechanical equipment whose primary function is to filter electricity feeding into or exiting variable speed drive equipment. TCI has been a member of Milwaukee's manufacturing community for almost forty tears and has grown to a point where it now employs eighty-five individuals.

I wanted to tell you how one specific group, the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP), has helped our company.

Over the past five years our company has averaged double digit revenue growth that has produced record profits. Many factors contributed to TCI achieving the record. However, in 2006 I felt TCI needed professional assistance in planning its future long term strategic course. After evaluating several firms as potential consultants, I chose WMEP to facilitate a strategic planning process for TCI. They guided TCI's strategic planning team through a comprehensive, seven-session series of planning exercises.

Those sessions resulted in the team producing a formal strategic document that, today, serves as our corporate map for sustaining the double digit growth and profit performance TCI has experienced over the past five years. More importantly, the plan will improve utilization of our corporate resources, help us position our company against both domestic and international competitors, and provide all of our employees with a clear understanding of where we intend to go as an organization.

As President of a small business in Wisconsin, I would like to express my appreciation for the valuable guidance and support we received from WMEP during the project. I strongly believe that increased investment in WMEP will insure this valuable organization remains

accessible to the vast number of small business that comprise the Wisconsin manufacturing community and help sustain economic growth.

Trans-Coil believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of RB Royal Industries, Inc.
John E. Valek, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of RB Royal Industries, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President of the company, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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RB Royal Industries, Inc. is located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. We are a contract manufacturer of custom tube and hose assemblies for a wide range of markets. Roughly six years ago, our company started our journey towards lean, and we have been aided and assisted by WMEP in ways too numerous to mention. The training and guidance we received from WMEP has helped us to apply lean principles in both our plant and office. With the support of WMEP, RB Royal has grown business with existing customers we well as new customers and markets.

There is no question that small to medium-sized manufacturers have to improve to meet global competition, and WMEP offers the highest value of any private or public consulting and training organization. Today's manufacturers are faced with many obstacles such as global competition, escalating material prices, shortage of labor and healthcare costs. With the help of WMEP, we will reduce waste and take advantage of the new principles for American manufacturing – Lean.

We believe that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Northeast Wisconsin Industries (NEW)
Chris Moore, President and Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the NEW Industries, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President/Owner of NEW Industries, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We are a CNC production machining operation that manufacturers prevision parts, weldments and assembles for a host of both Wisconsin-based and out-of-state major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). We employ about 130 people.

We have worked with the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) for several years, focusing especially on "lean" manufacturing concepts and execution. Most recently, WMEP assisted us in comprehensively analyzing our operation for potential facilities expansion. WMEP staff helped us decide to acquire, refurbish, and move entirely into the then-vacant (relocated to Mexico) Emerson motor winding plant in the industrial park here, as opposed to other alternatives. WMEP also helped us plan our relocation as well as out new and much improved plant layout.

We have also worked with WMEP on a new, in-depth "lean" process program which we were selected to participate in by Oshkosh Truck Corporation and which is sponsored by both Oshkosh Truck and the Federal Department of Defense.

WMEP is a very valuable asset to small and mid-size companies such as outs. It exposes us to the most current strategic concepts and helps us apply strategies and improvements that would not happen otherwise. This resource helps us compete generally, but is especially important considering the pervasive challenge of off-shore sourcing with a playing field that is not level. It is also essential in facilitating our capability to interact with, support, and satisfy our OEM customers who tend to be very large, quite sophisticated, and often global corporations.

WMEP helps keep job in this country and, especially, in this state. It has certainly helped us to be more competitive, to grow, and to increase our employment. In fact, partly due to WMEP's assistance, we have grown our business from less than $6 million in revenues in 2002

to almost $27 million in 2006, and to increase our employment from 38 people to 130 people during that same time period.

NEW Industries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Mercury Marine of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
Jim Hubbard, Vice President & Chief of Staff
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Mercury Marine, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President and Chief of Staff of Mercury Marine of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company has experienced the benefits of using the staff of the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) to assist us in improving our competitive position in the global marine market.

WMEP has a lot of experience with organized labor, several of them coming with a personal background as a represented employee, and they helped us immensely as we started down our Lean Six Sigma journey. The WMEP staff were instrumental in helping us get our rank and file workers to truly understand why Six Sigma is important to continuous improvement and making Mercury globally competitive.

Our experience with WMEP was positive, and we have referred other area companies to WMEP. We believe this is a truly valuable entity that is available to manufacturing companies in Wisconsin, and they are capable people who actually help companies in their efforts to be more competitive.

Mercury Marine believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of American Laser Products
William J. Henry, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of American Laser Products, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President of the American Laser Products, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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American Laser Products is located in Middleton, Wisconsin and manufactures laser printer toner cartridges. We employ about 32 people. I wanted to take a moment to let you know how the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) has helped American Laser to grow and prosper.

I started working with WMEP in January of 2003. With WMEP's help we performed a total lean transformation which allowed us to handle a large increase in business. Without WMEP's help, American Laser would have had to turn away the new business. Since then our revenue has increased fourfold.

American Laser Products believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Trail King Industries
Jerry Thomsen, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Trail King Industries, major trailer manufacturer and employer of 900 people, with plants located in West Fargo, North Dakota, Mitchell, South Dakota and in Brookville, Pennsylvania, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing our organization to submit this testimony for the record. I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This requested level of funding for 2009 was provided for in the recently enacted America COMPETES Act. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

The MEP is one of the most successful partnerships in the country. In addition to public support, a value proposition to improve manufacturer's global competitiveness is supported by those companies who receive benefit. In South Dakota, the Dakota MEP provides assistance to companies in continuous improvement, innovation, strategic growth, technology and workforce development – all major needs of our companies. Last year, we were able to pilot a unique Manufacturing "Boot Camp" for unemployed, with the Dakota MEP.

As a Dakota MEP Director, I would also like to report that the average company benefits and impacts realized in the Dakota MEP improvement work with manufacturers mirrors the national MEP average at $1.4 million per engagement. These benefits have been realized by manufacturers who've partnered with Dakota MEP over the past six years.

Manufacturing continues to diversify and grow the economies of the Dakotas. It currently is 10% of the gross state product in North Dakota and 11% in South Dakota. The industry has nearly 1,900 firms employing 69,000 in the Dakotas exporting over $2 billion. Manufacturing brings new wealth to our country, our states and communities which, in turn, generate other economic activity and opportunities.

Manufacturing must remain one of our country's economic strengths and the MEP is an invaluable program to help the industry better compete. Without unwavering strong federal support, the MEP will be unable to maintain its mission of serving America's small manufacturers' increasing needs. At a time when our economic strength and global competitiveness are national priorities, the MEP continues to be a wise investment. We respectfully request that you appropriate $122 million for the MEP in fiscal year 2009.

Sincerely,

Jerry Thomsen
Trail King Industries
300 East Norway Avenue, Mitchell, SD 57301

Testimony of Phoenix International
Bob Askew, Manufacturing Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Phoenix International, a leader in the design and manufacture of custom, integrated electronic solutions, located in Fargo, North Dakota, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing our organization to submit this testimony for the record. I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This requested level of funding for 2009 was provided for in the recently enacted America COMPETES Act. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

The MEP is one of the most successful partnerships in the country. In addition to public support, a value proposition to improve manufacturer's global competitiveness is supported by those companies who receive benefit. In North Dakota, the Dakota MEP provides assistance to companies in continuous improvement, innovation, strategic growth, technology and workforce development – all major needs of our companies. With the assistance of Dakota MEP, our company has worked on a number of improvement projects to improve productivity.

As a Dakota MEP Director, I would also like to report that the average company benefits and impacts realized in the Dakota MEP improvement work with manufacturers mirrors the national MEP average at $1.4 million per engagement. These benefits have been realized by manufacturers who've partnered with Dakota MEP over the past six years.

Manufacturing continues to diversify and grow the economies of the Dakotas. It currently is 10% of the gross state product in North Dakota and 11% in South Dakota. The industry has nearly 1,900 firms employing 69,000 in the Dakotas exporting over $2 billion. Manufacturing brings new wealth to our country, our states and communities which, in turn, generate other economic activity and opportunities.

Manufacturing must remain one of our country's economic strengths and the MEP is an invaluable program to help the industry better compete. Without unwavering strong federal support, the MEP will be unable to maintain its mission of serving America's small manufacturers' increasing needs. At a time when our economic strength and global competitiveness are national priorities, the MEP continues to be a wise investment. We respectfully request that you appropriate $122 million for the MEP in fiscal year 2009.

Sincerely,

Bob Askew
Phoenix International
1441 44th Street NW, Fargo, ND 58102

Testimony of Padgett Business Services
Dan Hoefs, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Padgett Business Services, located in Fargo, North Dakota, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing our organization to submit this testimony for the record. I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This requested level of funding for 2009 was provided for in the recently enacted America COMPETES Act. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

The MEP is one of the most successful partnerships in the country. In addition to public support, a value proposition to improve manufacturer's global competitiveness is supported by those companies who receive benefit. In North Dakota, the Dakota MEP provides assistance to companies in continuous improvement, innovation, strategic growth, technology and workforce development – all major needs of our companies. In several companies, I have had the opportunity to partner with Dakota MEP to further develop our manufacturing capacity.

As a Dakota MEP Director, I would also like to report that the average company benefits and impacts realized in the Dakota MEP improvement work with manufacturers mirrors the national MEP average at $1.4 million per engagement. These benefits have been realized by manufacturers who've partnered with Dakota MEP over the past six years.

Manufacturing continues to diversify and grow the economies of the Dakotas. It currently is 10% of the gross state product in North Dakota and 11% in South Dakota. The industry has nearly 1,900 firms employing 69,000 in the Dakotas exporting over $2 billion. Manufacturing brings new wealth to our country, our states and communities which, in turn, generate other economic activity and opportunities.

Manufacturing must remain one of our country's economic strengths and the MEP is an invaluable program to help the industry better compete. Without unwavering strong federal support, the MEP will be unable to maintain its mission of serving America's small manufacturers' increasing needs. At a time when our economic strength and global competitiveness are national priorities, the MEP continues to be a wise investment. We respectfully request that you appropriate $122 million for the MEP in fiscal year 2009.

Sincerely,

Dan Hoefs
Padgett Business Services
1450 25th Street South
Fargo, ND 58106

Testimony of Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing
Don Hedger, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing, manufacturer of aerospace assemblies, located in Killdeer, Halliday, Hettinger, and Dickinson, North Dakota, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing our organization to submit this testimony for the record. I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This requested level of funding for 2009 was provided for in the recently enacted America COMPETES Act. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

The MEP is one of the most successful partnerships in the country. In addition to public support, a value proposition to improve manufacturer's global competitiveness is supported by those companies who receive benefit. In North Dakota, the Dakota MEP provides assistance to companies in continuous improvement, innovation, strategic growth, technology and workforce development – all major needs of our companies. Our company is currently working on a nationally recognized Lean Enterprise Certification Program with the assistance of Dakota MEP.

As a Dakota MEP Director, I would also like to report that the average company benefits and impacts realized in the Dakota MEP improvement work with manufacturers mirrors the national MEP average at $1.4 million per engagement. These benefits have been realized by manufacturers who've partnered with Dakota MEP over the past six years.

Manufacturing continues to diversify and grow the economies of the Dakotas. It currently is 10% of the gross state product in North Dakota and 11% in South Dakota. The industry has nearly 1,900 firms employing 69,000 in the Dakotas exporting over $2 billion. Manufacturing brings new wealth to our country, our states and communities which, in turn, generate other economic activity and opportunities.

Manufacturing must remain one of our country's economic strengths and the MEP is an invaluable program to help the industry better compete. Without unwavering strong federal support, the MEP will be unable to maintain its mission of serving America's small manufacturers' increasing needs. At a time when our economic strength and global competitiveness are national priorities, the MEP continues to be a wise investment. We respectfully request that you appropriate $122 million for the MEP in fiscal year 2009.

Sincerely,

Don Hedger
Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing
233 Rodeo Drive, Killdeer, ND 58640

Testimony of Crary Industries Inc.
Chuck Crary, Chairman
To the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Crary Industries Inc, manufacturer of agricultural and outdoor equipment, located in West Fargo, North Dakota, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing our organization to submit this testimony for the record. I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This requested level of funding for 2009 was provided for in the recently enacted America COMPETES Act. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

The MEP is one of the most successful partnerships in the country. In addition to public support, a value proposition to improve manufacturer's global competitiveness is supported by those companies who receive benefit. In North Dakota, the Dakota MEP provides assistance to companies in continuous improvement, innovation, strategic growth, technology and workforce development – all major needs of our companies. We have worked on a variety of improvement projects with the assistance of Dakota MEP.

As a Dakota MEP Director, I would also like to report that the average company benefits and impacts realized in the Dakota MEP improvement work with manufacturers mirrors the national MEP average at $1.4 million per engagement. These benefits have been realized by manufacturers who've partnered with Dakota MEP over the past six years.

Manufacturing continues to diversify and grow the economies of the Dakotas. It currently is 10% of the gross state product in North Dakota and 11% in South Dakota. The industry has nearly 1,900 firms employing 69,000 in the Dakotas exporting over $2 billion. Manufacturing brings new wealth to our country, our states and communities which, in turn, generate other economic activity and opportunities.

Manufacturing must remain one of our country's economic strengths and the MEP is an invaluable program to help the industry better compete. Without unwavering strong federal support, the MEP will be unable to maintain its mission of serving America's small manufacturers' increasing needs. At a time when our economic strength and global competitiveness are national priorities, the MEP continues to be a wise investment. We respectfully request that you appropriate $122 million for the MEP in fiscal year 2009.

Sincerely,

Chuck Crary
Crary Company
237 12th St NW, West Fargo, ND 58078

Testimony of Robert Wilmot
Chairman of the Board of Dakota Manufacturing Extension Partnership
To the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf the Board of Directors of Dakota Manufacturing Extension Partnership, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing our organization to submit this testimony for the record. I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This requested level of funding for 2009 was provided for in the recently enacted America COMPETES Act. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

The MEP is one of the most successful partnerships in the country. In addition to public support, a value proposition to improve manufacturer's global competitiveness is supported by those companies who receive benefit. In the Dakotas, the Dakota MEP provides assistance to companies in continuous improvement, innovation, strategic growth, technology and workforce development – all major needs of our companies. Several years ago our company, Turtle Mountain Corporation in Dunseith, North Dakota, was able to significantly improve its overall competitiveness as a supplier and its workforce with the assistance of Dakota MEP.

As a Dakota MEP Board Chairman, I would also like to report that the average company benefits and impacts realized in the Dakota MEP improvement work with manufacturers mirrors the national MEP average at $1.4 million per engagement. These benefits have been realized by manufacturers who've partnered with Dakota MEP over the past six years.

Manufacturing continues to diversify and grow the economies of the Dakotas. It currently is 10% of the gross state product in North Dakota and 11% in South Dakota. The industry has nearly 1,900 firms employing 69,000 in the Dakotas exporting over $2 billion. Manufacturing brings new wealth to our country, our states and communities which, in turn, generate other economic activity and opportunities.

Manufacturing must remain one of our country's economic strengths and the MEP is an invaluable program to help the industry compete with offshore companies. Without unwavering strong federal support, the MEP will be unable to maintain its mission of serving America's small manufacturers' increasing needs. At a time when our economic strength and global competitiveness are national priorities, the MEP continues to be a wise investment. We respectfully request that you appropriate $122 million for the MEP in fiscal year 2009.

Sincerely,

Robert Wilmot
209 Heritage Circle
Rugby, ND 58368

Testimony of Bell Incorporated
Marianne Von Seggern, Vice President of Strategic Development
To the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Bell Incorporated, a global packaging manufacturer, located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing our organization to submit this testimony for the record. I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This requested level of funding for 2009 was provided for in the recently enacted America COMPETES Act. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

The MEP is one of the most successful partnerships in the country. In addition to public support, a value proposition to improve manufacturer's global competitiveness is supported by those companies who receive benefit. In South Dakota, the Dakota MEP provides assistance to companies in continuous improvement, innovation, strategic growth, technology and workforce development – all major needs of our companies. Several years ago, our company began our commitment to continuous improvement with the assistance of Dakota MEP.

As a Dakota MEP Director, I would also like to report that the average company benefits and impacts realized in the Dakota MEP improvement work with manufacturers mirrors the national MEP average at $1.4 million per engagement. These benefits have been realized by manufacturers who've partnered with Dakota MEP over the past six years.

Manufacturing continues to diversify and grow the economies of the Dakotas. It currently is 10% of the gross state product in North Dakota and 11% in South Dakota. The industry has nearly 1,900 firms employing 69,000 in the Dakotas exporting over $2 billion. Manufacturing brings new wealth to our country, our states and communities which, in turn, generate other economic activity and opportunities.

Manufacturing must remain one of our country's economic strengths and the MEP is an invaluable program to help the industry better compete. Without unwavering strong federal support, the MEP will be unable to maintain its mission of serving America's small manufacturers' increasing needs. At a time when our economic strength and global competitiveness are national priorities, the MEP continues to be a wise investment. We respectfully request that you appropriate $122 million for the MEP in fiscal year 2009.

Sincerely,

Marianne Von Seggern
Bell Incorporated
1411 Avenue D North
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Testimony of All Aboard America
Nick Nicholas, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of All Aboard America, located in Upland California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing All Aboard America to submit testimony for the record. As President of All Aboard America, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically of the work All Aboard America did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

All Aboard America believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Fuji Electric Device Technology America, Inc.
Leo Fick, Logistics/IT Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Fuji Electric Device Technology America, Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Logistics/IT Manager of the Fuji Electric Device Technology America, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

I thank both NJMEP and Prism eSolutions for all their help with the ISO certification process. Their help was instrumental for Fuji Electric Device Technology America, Inc. to obtain the ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certification.

Fuji Electric Device Technology America, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Seacoast Science Inc.
Louis Haerle, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Seacoast Science Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Seacoast Science Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of the Seacoast Science Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Seacoast Science Inc. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small business and manufacturer technology we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make improvement to our operations by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us grow our business.

Seacoast Science Inc. believes it is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation and growth of our economy, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Jeng's Co.
Dr. One-Jeng Jeng
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Jeng's Company**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Jeng's Company**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Since the mission of Jeng's is to provide industrial ergonomics services to small business, NJMEP has been a valuable partner of Jeng's to assist to identify local manufacturing facilities in New Jersey. Some of those manufacturing facilities, which would not have the resource of having their own ergonomists, are benefited to receive services from Jeng's for seeking improvements of workers safety and health. We strongly believe that the MEP program not only makes great economic sense to the US business, but also enhance the wellbeing of the US workforces.

Jeng's Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Avionic Instruments LLC.
Aerospace for Industry™
FAA Repair Station No. V5AR787J

Testimony of the Avionic Instruments Inc
Rigo Cruz, Director of Engineering & Quality
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Avionic Instruments LLC**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Director of Engineering & Quality** of **Avionic Instruments LLC**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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"NJMEP did a series of training including Lean Manufacturing. One of the more important effects of the Lean Training is that it has provided Avionic Instruments with a vehicle for change, while helping us to secure the jobs of all employees of the company. After being acquired by TRANSDIGM, it was imperative to become an efficient company with room for growth. NJMEP training has helped us to steer the company in the right direction and has empowered our employees to participate in and drive positive change."

Avionic Instruments LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,
Rigo Cruz

Director Of Engineering & Quality
Avionic Instruments LLC
1414 Randolph Ave
Avenel, NJ 07001
rcruz@avionicinstruments.com
Phone: 732-781-1053
Mobile: 732-770-8700

1414 Randolph Avenue P.O. Box 498 Avenel New Jersey 07001 T 732 388•3500 F 732 382•4996

140 Fieldcrest Avenue
Edison, New Jersey 08837
732-512-9009 Tel
732-512-9549 Fax
www.argentassociates.com

March 11, 2008

Testimony of Argent Associates, Inc.
Joyce Hart, Office Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Argent Associates Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Office Manager** of **Argent Associates**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

NJMEP's soft skills training on Time Management and Microsoft Excel allowed us to serve our customers and manage our work more efficiently. In a small company having multiple businesses and various locations all over the country, we need help to juggle multiple tasks, coordinate them with the rest of the crew, and expect everyone to take over with a drop of a hat. Since our training with NJMEP, we've been able to add more businesses to our product line without having to increase payroll

Argent Associates believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Joyce Hart

Joyce Hart
Business Operations Manager

Testimony of the Avionic Instruments Inc
Bryce Wiedeman, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Avionic Instruments LLC, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President of the Avionic Instruments LLC, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided funding within the fiscal year 2009 year. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of centers, with multiple locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. The program, which can provide significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

"The biggest impact of NJMEP's work with our company has been the creation of a more positive work environment that has led to an increase in employee retention. The training also gave us the ability to increase the salary levels of our work force, and promote from within the company. We have seen great benefits with all the specific training, especially the 5S and Cell manufacturing training sessions."

Avionic Instruments LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers may lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated,

Bryce Wiedeman
President
Avionic Instruments LLC

Testimony of the Argent Associates
Betty Manetta, President & CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Argent Associates**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President & CEO** of **Argent Associates**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Because of theNJMEP training, we were able to increase sales by $800K, retain sales by $2 million and invest in workforce development by $250K. We have also been able to grow into new areas to better diversify our company. We are grateful to the NJDOL for the training grant and for NJMEP for helping us get it. They have been particularly helpful to small, Hispanic, women-owned businesses like Argent. In addition, we are utilizing the agency to expand into Nogales, Arizona, and Raleigh, North Carolina. If we don't continue to utilize agencies like MEP, our small and minority/women owned businesses cannot compete with SME's from other countries and thus enable to help grow our countries economy.

Argent Associates believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Massey's House of Flowers
Lupe Massey, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Massey's House of Flowers, located in Lomita California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Massey's House of Flowers to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Massey's House of Flowers, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Massey's House of Flowers did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Massey's House of Flowers believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of LS Design
Luis Sinibaldi, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of LS Design, located in Los Angeles California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing LS Design to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof LS Design, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work LS Design did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

LS Design believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Universal Forest Products Inc. - Grandview
Lynn Howell, Plant Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Universal Forest Products, Inc.-Grandview, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Plant Manager of Universal Forest Products, Inc -Grandview, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

Universal Forest Products, Inc. (UFPI) just celebrated its 50th year in business. From its start as a single sales office serving the manufactured housing industry, the company has grown to become the nation's leading supplier of wood and wood-alternative products, and is a powerful player in the international lumber arena. Universal Forest Products® markets, manufactures, and engineers products for "Do-It-Yourself" retail home centers, structural lumber products for the manufactured housing industry, engineered wood components for the site-built construction market and specialty wood packaging for various industries.

Founded in 1955 by the late William Grant, Sr., Universal today is a $2.4 billion company with nearly 9,000 employees and 96 facilities in 84 communities across North America. The company is the leader in each of the four markets it serves: do-it-yourself (DIY) retail, site-built construction, industrial packaging and components, and manufactured housing.

The Universal facility in Grandview employs approximately 230 personnel. They produce wooden pallets for major industries such as heating, air conditioning and others. One of their products lines is wooden bed frames.

Situation

Universal's sister Plant Manage Paul Shoppell at the Saginaw site was somewhat familiar with Lean Enterprise and the services received by UFPI in other states by the federal network of Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP). He was looking for a more effective and efficient

way to get staff at the 10 plant locations in Texas trained without having it incur travel costs. Shoppell contacted the local MEP, the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) to work with his team in Saginaw and had great results. His experience was the basis of the Grandview referral. TMAC started out with a Lean Enterprise 101 training event in Grandview. Universal hen took the next step by holding a Value Stream Mapping (VSM) event facilitated by TMAC Lean Specialists Frank Groenteman and Rod Reddic. The processes they mapped were in Universal Forest Products® bed framing operations. Grandview Plant Manager Lynn Howell was confident this area would prove a major opportunity since the plant had just gone through a major relocation of products. The area was ripe for improvements. Groenteman used his many years of Lean knowledge and experience to work with the Universal's improvement team. The result was a VSM event that thoroughly looked at their current state processes. The team subsequently created a Lean future state for the bed framing product family implementing all they had learned from participating in TMAC's Lean training. The VSM exercise led to the generation of a short list of continuous improvement action plans for the Saginaw plant.

Results

Within a few weeks associates had relocated major processes including the finished goods area. Now the entire bed framing operation is in one general area. Every part of the operation is now easily seen by the operators who control the production process. Universal anticipates future savings and identification of other improvement issues using their Lean knowledge and the use of the VMS tool. TMAC continues to provide Lean training and coaching.

- **$20K annual savings**
- **Reduction in travel costs**
- **Enhanced visual controls**
- **Reduced cycle time**

Plant manager Lynn Howell states "Working with TMAC has been a great strategic move for our company. We eagerly look forward to the rest of our Lean journey."

This project was partially funded by a Texas Skills Development Fund grant managed by Hill County College which serves Hill, Johnson, Bosque, Somervell and Hood counties. TMAC values its relationships with local community colleges as a value-added strategic training partner.

County: Tarrant
Industry: Lumber Processing – www.ufpi.com
NAICS: 32111
TMAC Services Provided: Lean Product Design
Who to contact: Plant Manager, Lynn Howell at 817-866-3306

Universal Forest Products, Inc.-Grandview believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and row the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of PERSONIX
Andy Platt, Director of Continuous Improvement
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the PERSONIX, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my COMPANY to submit testimony for the record. As DIRECTOR OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT at PERSONIX, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Personix Success Story

A leading manufacturer of credit cards, healthcare cards, and financial and health document delivery services, Personix is integrating lean manufacturing principles into its core culture. To help accomplish that objective at its Indianapolis facility, TAP's Manufacturing Extension Partnership has created a multi-tiered training program for employees. As a result of sessions on advanced manufacturing, culture change, and other principles, managers already have seen increased production and better space utilization. Those intermediate accomplishments should go a long way toward realizing the company's ultimate goal of doubling capacity without increasing square footage.

"From my perspective, **Purdue TAP (Indiana's MEP)** has been critical to our success — primarily because of an absolute willingness to immerse themselves in our business. The coursework is custom-suited to our environment and the availability of our personnel. Each of the major courses was followed by kaizen events solidifying the learning and bringing it home for the participants. Plus, our tuition costs were covered by a Department of Workforce Development Training Acceleration Grant. As a result of our partnership with Purdue's Technical Assistance Program, we've experienced increases in velocity and margin and decreases in expenses and costs. We're running leaner than ever and continue to partner with TAP to drive 'lean' deep into our culture."

Economic impact reported to NIST MEP in 2006 and 2007:

Year	Qtr	Total $ Impacts	Jobs Created	Jobs Retained	Sales Created	Sales Retain	Cost Savings	Investment
2007	4	7,438,000	10	5	-	3,000,000	825,000	3,613,000

PERSONIX believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of GRIMMERSCHMIDT COMPRESSORS, LLC
Pete Grimmer, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of GRIMMERSCHMIDT COMPRESSORS, LLC, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my COMPANY to submit testimony for the record. As President of GrimmerSchmidt Compressors, LLC, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

GimmerSchmidt Success Story

GrimmerSchmidt Compressors, LLC, whose products enhance oil and gas production, had experienced such rapid growth because of the energy boom that its backlog had doubled quickly. To meet increased demands within the confines of its current facility, executives asked TAP Manufacturing Extension Partnership consultants for lean advanced manufacturing training. Over three months the TAP advanced manufacturing specialists worked with Grimmer staff to embed new skill sets that were applied in small-batch manufacturing, cellular manufacturing, and other topics. After reorganizing the shop floor, reconfiguring machining centers, and adding some staff, the company has increased its monthly output about 60 percent, all without physical expansion.

"**Indiana MEP (Purdue TAP)** consultants helped us choose the lean advanced manufacturing courses most relevant to optimizing our shop floor, which was our goal. They were well educated, prompt, and stayed to our schedule, and they kept the classes entertaining and interactive. Our workers engaged in fictitious case studies, performing tabletop simulations and records results. Once we all saw the benefits of the theories, we were able to apply the principles to our organization. Now we're able to work with more efficiency."

- Pete Grimmer, President, GrimmerSchmidt Compressors, LLC

Economic Impact Reported to NIST MEP in 2007:

Year	Qtr	Total $ Impacts	Jobs Created	Jobs Retained	Sales Created	Sales Retain	Cost Savings	Investmen
2007	3	21,026,000	10	45	5,900,000	15,000,000	26,000	100,000

GRIMMERSCHMIDT COMPRESSORS, LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of The Ottenweller Company
Michael Ottenweller, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of The Ottenweller Company, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Ottenweller Success Story

The Ottenweller plant located in Fort Wayne, Indiana is currently participating in an Advanced Manufacturing Training and Implementation Program. This technical assistance and business support is being coordinated by Purdue University's Technical Assistance Program – Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Impacts resulting from this training / implementation include the following:

- **Retention of existing employees – We have received very positive feedback from our employees following our Lean Training sessions. They appreciate the investment we are making to increase their skills, as we encourage them to become involved in process improvements to their work environment. This partnership builds both relationships and "ownership" of their work area. Obviously, they are much more engaged when they have input to the setup of their work area and believe in the processes we have built.**

- **Increased efficiency / cost savings – As the economic climate in our industry becomes more competitive, our profit margins have become very slim. Over the next six months, our relationships with several of our major customers will rely very heavily on our ability to operate in a more "Lean" fashion. Their focus is price,**

delivery and quality, and we must continue to cut waste in able to meet their ever-tightening requirements.

- **Other positive impact - As our training under our TAG grant continues, we hear requests from the floor to focus our efforts on their work area next. We believe this "buy-in" is testimony to the success of the training our employees have received through Purdue University.**

Economic Impact Reported to NIST MEP in 2007:

Year	Qtr	Total $ Impacts	Jobs Created	Jobs Retained	Sales Created	Sales Retain	Cost Savings	Investmen
2007	3	21,026,000	10	45	5,900,000	15,000,000	26,000	100,000

The Ottenweller Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Made 4 You Products
Sandie Denton, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Made 4 You Products, located in Pinion Hills California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Made 4 You Products to submit testimony for the record. As President of Made 4 You Products, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Made 4 You Products did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Made 4 You Products believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Datascope Corp.
Manuel Marques
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Datascope Corp.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As the **Director of Manufacturing Engineering at Datascope Corp.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We are actively working with and receiving support from NJMEP. Their technical assistance has been very valuable to our growing company. Their guidance in helping us learn and implement Lean manufacturing techniques has helped us to become more efficient and improve our productivity. This program is vital to organizations like ours that need to remain competitive in the market place.

Datascope Corp. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Cardinal Color Company
Mark Berry, General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Cardinal Color Company**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **General Manager** of the **Cardinal Color Company**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Cardinal Color was faced with a loss of over $1,000,000 in business if we did not become ISO registered. NJMEP showed us an economical way to prepare for the registration process and provided experienced help to our workforce. We are now well on our way to our first ISO audit

Cardinal Color Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

JEIVEN PHARMACEUTICAL CONSULTING, INC.
6 JACOBS LANE
SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY 07076

Office: (908) 233-4508
Fax: (908) 654-4829

www.jeiven.com

Reliable Guidance

MARTIN L. JEIVEN, MS, RPh
PRESIDENT

CONSULTANTS IN CLINICAL
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Testimony of Jeiven Pharmaceutical Consulting, Inc
Martin L. Jeiven, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Jeiven Pharmaceutical Consulting, Inc (JPC), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing JPC to submit testimony for the record. As President of JPC, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Jeiven Pharmaceutical Consulting, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Regards,

Martin L. Jeiven, MS, BPharm, RPh
President

Testimony of the Monmouth Rubber Corp
Joel Schwartz, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Dellet Doors**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **a co-owner** of **Dellet Doors**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company completed a Lean Opportunity Assessment conducted by NJMEP. The assessment indicated where plant layout, workplace organization, cellular flow and other tools could dramatically increase our production rate and bring the company into profitability. With the support of the Lakewood Urban Enterprise Zone, and based on the NJMEP Scope of Work developed out of the assessment, and we are ready to begin a Lean Transformation of our company.

Dellet Doors believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

On behalf of the **Injectron Corp.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **V.P. Operations** of the **Injectron Corp.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The NJMEP training has allowed us to remain competitive in a very difficult manufacturing environment. When many custom molding work is moving to China, the DOL training grant helped us keep the business we have and increase our (market) share. We were very satisfied with the providers. The feedback from the participants were very positive regarding the type of trainers, the level of enthusiasm, knowledge of the topic, the ability to relate to the different levels of trainees whether hourly or management in a very effective way.

Injectron Corp. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Marvin Kaplan
Vice President- Operations

1000 South Second St., P.O. Box 3012, Plainfield, N.J. 07063 908-753-1990 212-233-8440 Fax 908-753-853

Testimony of the
PortionPac Chemical Corporation
Marvin Klein, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
and Related Agencies

On behalf of the PortionPac Chemical Corporation I would like to thank the Committee for allowing our company to submit testimony for the record. As President of PortionPac, an industrial manufacturer since 1964, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget.

In these challenging economic times, our country's manufacturing base needs the guidance and support of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Business is challenging. As example, a small company like ours (80 employees) in a $5.1 billion market is under dramatic pressures

from raw material costs, distributor profitability, and constrained customer budgets.

PortionPac used to distribute through to very successful family owned distributors and now most of them have been absorbed by large chains. We used to sell to independent hospitals and nursing homes; many are gone, replaced by chains that only want to do business with the few major corporations. We used to sell to family owned janitorial contractors and they are being consolidated into national and international corporations.

Our competitors have also changed, from small and medium sized chemical formulators to major firms controlling 60% or more of the world market. Competition from overseas is, of course, another challenge that all of us are well aware of.

The bottom line for many small manufacturers, who are the backbone of our economy, is they have to adapt, modernize and change their processes and operations, If not , many will unfortunately give up, sell their property and "retire to Florida".

The good news is that they can make these changes and compete with national and international competitors. But guidance and assistance in making these changes is critical. And having been in business since 1964, PortionPac has had a lot of experience on where and how a small manufacturer can get assistance. There are councils, associations, industry groups, seminars and of course "gurus," but frankly, most of the time small manufacturers are on their own.

This is where our local MEP center, The Chicago Manufacturing Center (CMC) helped our company, not only meet these challenges, but look ahead with confidence to make the investments and changes necessary for a new growth pattern and increased sales.

It is not one CMC program that has been so effective but a series of concepts, technical advice, networking contacts, and most important, as a support group that has become part of our management team. CMC expertise extends from Lean manufacturing, to scientific studies and marketing assistance.

Let me offer two examples. In the early 1990's our company management team read the book Natural Capitalism and realized that the concepts were pertinent to our company, but the process seemed overwhelming.

In 2005, CMC brought Hunter Lovins, one of the authors of this book, to lecture at our local Industrial Council. We were recharged and decided to work on one of their concepts, the Sustainability Helix, on a continuing two year study that is publicly available on the CMC web site at www.cmcusa.org/initiatives/leadershipprogram.cfm.

CMC guided us on the path. They hired a consultant from Natural Capitalism Solutions to help us. Through this process we made changes in our thinking, production and sales that set the stage for us to maintain our leadership and profit from the environmental movement that was happening across the world.

It's important to note that MEP is not a free program—manufacturers pay for the services. Since 2005, Portion-Pac has engaged CMC on a series of improvement projects for which we paid fees totaling $98,000. It is money well spent. The results have been beyond our imagination with improvements in our products, recognition in the industry and in city, state and national sustainable programs. We have increased our sales by over $2,000,000, and have made investments of nearly $500,000 in our physical plant, our information systems, and in workforce education and new employees... We are just one example of the thousands of companies that are generating measurable economic impact as a result of working with a local MEP center.

MEP centers also drive manufacturing innovation. One example is CMC's Waste to Profit Network, a partnership with the City of Chicago, which PortionPac recently joined. It puts leading regional manufacturers together to convert normally discarded waste materials into another firm's raw material production. This is an amazing environmental and economic opportunity for small companies like ours.

I would also like to add a personal note. I have had the honor to be a volunteer Board Member of CMC and have had the opportunity to see the professionalism, expertise and dedication of their staff from both sides of the desk. It truly is a great resource for manufacturers and a sound investment for our government.

PortionPac believes that if the President's proposal to eliminate funding for MEP is realized, the American manufacturing economy will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. In addition, it will slow down the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

PortionPac Chemical Corporation is located in an Empowerment Zone, Enterprise Zone and a Chicago Planned Manufacturing District on the near West Side of Chicago.

Additional Information is available at www.portionpaccorp.com or email me at mklein@portionpaccorp.com and we would be pleased to answer any question on this important investment for our country.

Testimony of the Multiflex Co. Inc
Royce Keller, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Multiflex Co. Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Multiflex Co. Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP helped The Multiflex Co.Inc. with an evaluation on lean manufacturing. After an extensive review of our manufacturing facility, we were able to create a plan that will further help us in our lean manufacturing improvements. NJMEP has also assisted us with the New Jersey DOL's grant process.

Multiflex Co. Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Dukes, Inc.
Masoud Jalilpour, Director of Material
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Dukes Inc., located in Northridge CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Dukes Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Director of Material of Dukes Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Dukes Inc. did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we engaged them to assist us with an Inventory Management and Control implementation which resulted in the following bottom-line impacts for our company.

Cost Savings: $47,000
Investment in Our Plant and Workforce: $73,000

This support from CMTC led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a manufacturer in a globally competitive marketplace we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program.

Dukes Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Sew What Inc.
Megan Duckett, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Sew What Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Sew What Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As President of the Sew What Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Sew What Inc. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Sew What Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Lofurno Corporation
Mel Lofurno, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Lofurno Corporation, I thank the Committee for allowing Lofurno Corporation to submit testimony for the record. As President of Lofurno Corporation, I respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you are aware, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program that is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Lofurno Corporation has been providing consulting services to New Jersey MEP since 2000 and has worked with 15 small manufacturing businesses in New Jersey during that time. These businesses have represented the full spectrum, from food processing to metalworking and I know they benefited greatly from the guidance provided through NJMEP. They were able to purchase buildings and capital equipment, optimize their processes, organize their operations and train their personnel to ensure growth and provide employment in the State. I highly value the expertise NJMEP brings to our U.S. manufacturing base, especially considering the loss of jobs and expertise we see currently being moved out of our Country.

Lofurno Corporation believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic resources at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology, the catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Lofurno
President

LOFURNO
CORPORATION

Vision ♦ Strategy ♦ Execution
37 Shy Creek Road • Pittstown, New Jersey 08867-5155 U.S.A.
Telephone: +1.908.735.3837 • e-mail: info@lofurno.com • www.lofurno.com

Testimony of Blue Sky Energy Inc.
Richard Cullen, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Blue Sky Energy Inc., located in Vista California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Blue Sky Energy Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof Blue Sky Energy Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Blue Sky Energy Inc. did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Blue Sky Energy Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Cullen

Richard A. Cullen
President

Testimony of Aircart International
Mel Lowry, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Aircart International, located in Van Nuys California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Aircart International to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Aircart Intrernational, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Aircart Intrernational did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Aircart International believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Bumble Bee Foods LLC
Sheri Glazebrook, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Bumble Bee Foods LLC, located in Santa Fe Springs CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Bumble Bee Foods LLCto submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of Bumble Bee Foods LLC, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Bumble Bee Foods LLC did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we engaged them to assist us with a Lean Manufacturing implementation implementation which resulted in the following bottom-line impacts for our company.

Investment in Our Plant and Workforce: 11400

Increased Competitiveness:

This support from CMTC led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a manufacturer in a globally competitive marketplace we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Bumble Bee Foods LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the VCT- New Jersey
Merrill Martin, C.P.A. Chief Operating Officer
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **VCT New Jersey**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As a **C.P.A. and Chief Operating Officer** of **VCT- New Jersey**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We are grateful to NJMEP for helping us secure our training grant and get assistance in Lean Manufacturing and quality training.

VCT-NJ believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Merrill J. Martin
Executive V.P. & Chief Operating Officer

TESTIMONY OF LAWRENCE MOLNAR
PRESIDENT, EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS
HOUSE COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
APRIL 2, 2008

Mr. Chairman, as President of the Educational Association of University Centers, which is the advocacy organization for universities in the EDA University Center Program, I am pleased to offer this testimony regarding FY '09 funding for this important program administered by the Economic Development Administration at the Department of Commeree. On behalf of our the network of universities across the U.S. that are partieipating in the program, our appropriation request for the EDA University Center Program for FY 2009 is $12.5 million. The EDA Technical Assistance line item is currently funded at about $9 million annually for the national EDA University Center Program.

As you know, the EDA University Center Program is a network of centers located at universities and colleges in most states. The program has operated for over 30 years as the only federally funded program specifically designed to link the higher education system in the U.S. with local and regional economic development organizations, local units of government, private sector companies, non-profits and regional organizations. There are about 55 centers in the program currently.

Through this program, the resources, research, expertise, experience and capabilities of the higher education system are made accessible to help capitalize on opportunities, address problems and overcome economic challenges for areas suffering economic dislocation and distress. Each University Center reflects the character and capacities of the sponsoring institution and tailors its portfolio of programs, projects and services based on the individual institution and the needs of the service region that center serves.

Each EDA University Center currently receives approximately $100,000 to $150,000 per year. The program has been funded at the same level for over a decade. The additional funding that is requested would enable current University Centers to be funded at a level of $250,000 per year, which combined with the required local match of an amount equal to the federal share, would create program budgets of $500,000 per University Center. The nation's universities are a vital component of the economic development capacity of the U.S. and this increased funding will yield a strong return on the investment.

The University Center Program and the University Centers that form it up operate in conformance with the EDA's investment principles. That means that programs and projects undertaken by the university centers include: being market-based and results-driven; having strong organizational leadership; advancing productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship; addressing medium to long-term needs; anticipating economic changes; fostering economic diversification; and including a high degree of local commitment. To those ends, the University Center program nationwide participates in economic development activities that help leverage hundreds of millions of dollars in private sector investment.

A fundamental objective of the University Center Program is to focus program activities on areas of economic distress and to conduct projects and programs that lead to the creation and retention of high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand jobs. The types of activities undertaken by university centers include direct technical assistance. That assistance can take the form of direct assistance to private sector companies. A typical example of a technical assistance project would be working with a manufacturer to develop a prototype of a new product, analyze the potential market for the product, and help commercialize and launch the new product. The end result will hopefully lead to increases in production capacity within the firm, resulting in new job creation.

University centers also often have the capacity and the mission to conduct applied research to inform economic development initiatives. Before a significant financial investment is made in an economic development project, due diligence must be performed to determine if there is a high probability for a significant return on investment in terms of jobs created and retained, as well as indirect jobs created and retained in the supply chain and in local and regional commercial and retail businesses. Typical projects that would require applied research to determine potential for success are industrial parks, technology parks, business incubators and accelerators, and public works projects to improve infrastructure, such as potable water treatment plants, wastewater treatment, access roads and other projects. Research such as market and feasibility analyses, business plans, operating plans and other types of analyses serves to strengthen projects and to help ensure that investments are directed toward projects with the highest potential to deliver in economic terms.

University centers also conduct economic analyses to identify industry clusters that exist or that have the potential to be created. Industry clusters are private sector companies that exist in a defined geographic region and that have similar characteristics that can enable individual firms to create competitive advantages through relationships that often include pooled procurement activities or supply chain linkages, where firms provide raw materials, components or other products or services to companies that are using raw materials to produce value-added products or that create products by combining components to produce a finished item for delivery to customers. By conducting the research to identify companies with potential affinity and the potential for benefit from economies of scale, jobs may be created or retained and individual companies made more competitive and profitable. These efforts also can strengthen local and regional economies by developing a local supply chain and producing products that are exported from the region, thereby bringing revenue into the region from external sources.

An example of university center activity is the initiative has been undertaken by the University Center program at the University of Michigan, which I oversee, along with our partners at Cleveland State University, Ohio University and Purdue University. Our work addresses the adverse impacts on communities in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana that are experiencing major manufacturing plant closures. The university center programs at these universities are collaborating to deliver services to the impacted communities and to help the communities to access resources from a range of federal agencies, state agencies and non-profit organizations.

The tools that have been created to help these communities develop economic recovery plans include a resource guide to Federal, State and Non-profit agencies and organizations that can

help communities in economic distress and experiencing sudden and severe economic dislocation. Communities also receive a Regional and Community Profile that contains critical information, such as key infrastructure, transportation corridor information, workforce characteristics, demographic information, and that helps identify core competencies and competitive advantages of communities and regions. A "Strategic Planning for Economic Recovery Workbook" helps to facilitate an accelerated strategic planning process that takes place over a period of 4-6 weeks and leads to a set of implementation projects to address economic, community and social needs in the communities and regions that are adversely impacted.

After the community stakeholders have become organized and identify critical needs, the program convenes a Community Stakeholder Workshop that brings Program Representatives from Federal and State agencies to present information about their programs for distressed communities and to meet one-on-one with stakeholders representing a wide range of economic and community development organizations, social service agencies, local elected officials and units of governments that are qualified to receive funding.

Another example of the wide range of University Center Program assistance activities is a project conducted by the University of Pennsylvania EDA University Center. The South Central Workforce Investment Area of Pennsylvania created a Department of Defense (DoD) Industry Partnership to strengthen the region's defense industry through targeted skills training. Penn State University's Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) managed the development of this Partnership. This Partnership grew out of a state-funded economic development initiative, Job Ready PA, which builds partnerships to more effectively respond to the workforce needs of targeted industries.

The Industry Partnership is comprised of representatives from regional DoD commands and activities, the private contractors supporting those activities, and regional education institutions and training providers. The Partnership acts as a workforce intermediary, connecting the workers and contractors with the educational infrastructure by creating industry-driven training programs in response to identified skill gaps targeting three categories of workers: DoD personnel; civilian contractors providing both infrastructure as well as technical and mission support services; and DoD systems manufacturers and parts and component suppliers.

Every University Center Program across the U.S. has many examples of terrific project and program activities that have greatly contributed to the health of regional and local economies and that have addressed economic distress.

The economic security, national security and global competitiveness of our nation are increasingly bound with the higher education system of colleges and universities in America. The economy of our nation is in a period of transformation from a primarily industrial-based economy to a post-industrial economy. This transformation is creating enormous challenges as jobs are lost in some sectors and regions, and jobs are created in other sectors and regions. It is essential that the higher education system play an engaged and proactive role in the nation's economy.

The EDA University Center Program is the primary federal program to ensure that that role is continual and successful. It is for that reason that the funding for this critical program be continued with the increase that is requested. Because it is a national program, no single state, region or economic sector gains at the expense of any other region or sector. I thank you for your attention to this issue and hope that this request will be approved.

Testimony of Chuao Chocolatier
Michael Antonorsi, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Chuao Chocolatier, located in Carlsbad California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Chuao Chocolatier to submit testimony for the record. As President of Chuao Chocolatier, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community. MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically of the work Chuao Chocolatier did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.Chuao Chocolatier believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Best Regards
Michael Antonorsi
Chocolatier
Chuao Chocolatier
2345 Camino Vida Roble
Carlsbad, CA 92011
(760) 476-1668 Ext. 105

Testimony of the Compass Pharma, LLC
Michael Carollo, General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Caraustar Industries, Inc. I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **General Manager** of Caraustar Industries, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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In 2005, NJMEP assisted my plant with a warehouse temperature study that justified large investments in plant and equipment to more safely store pharmaceuticals. As a result, we were not only able to safeguard consumers, but to satisfy our customers' and the FDA's ever increasing demands for quality control. New Jersey businesses are better off with a strong MEP system of resources.

Caraustar Industries, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Strato Inc.
Michael Corridon, CFO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Strato Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **CFO** of the **Strato Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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MEP has provided Strato with the opportunity to work with experts in: lean manufacturing, lean accounting and business communications. Their ability to bring in subject matter experts on an as needed basis has enabled us to remain competitive in an increasingly competitive world. The skills we have learned will help us fulfill our goals of continued profitable growth. This growth will help us expand our workforce. We view MEP as a long-term strategic partner.

Strato Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Superseal Manufacturing NJ

Michael Ghizzone, General Manager

To the U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Superseal Manufacturing NJ**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **General Manager** of the **Superseal Manufacturing NJ**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP as a whole made our company self-sufficient in the implementation of future 5S and Kanban kaizens. We will continue going forward with NJMEP and learn more techniques that are necessary for us to be the benchmark in our industry.

Superseal Manufacturing NJ believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Michael Ghizzone
General Manager
Superseal Manufacturing
125 Helen Street
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Testimony of the Monmouth Rubber and Plastics Corporation
John M. Bonforte, Sr., President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Monmouth Rubber Corp**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Monmouth Rubber and Plastics Corp**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company needed to register to ISO 9001 in order to retain existing customers and allow us to compete in Europe. In order to secure this specialized training, we turned to NJMEP for assistance, and have been training under their resource through last year. The legislators who have provided the funding for this project understand the need and importance of small businesses in the global economy. This certification training has helped us immensely in our efforts to compete in Europe and Asia.

Monmouth Rubber Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Kreisler Industrial Corp.
Michael Stern, President & Chief Executive Officer
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Kreisler Industrial Corp.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President & Chief Executive Officer** of the **Kreisler Industrial Corp.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Kreisler Industrial manufactures aircraft fuel lines and precision bent tubes for the aerospace and power industries. I would like to thank the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program for contributing to our recent success. The training conducted by NJMEP has been critical to expanding capacity so that we can satisfy our customers' demand and teach new tools to many of the new employees. Our trainer was excellent and we would highly recommend him for future training. Before our Lean Manufacturing project with the NJMEP, we had 120 employees. We not only retained the existing workers, but added many more. We now have 160 employees. Lean Manufacturing allows us to make parts faster and cheaper than the competition and gain more business.

Kreisler Industrial Corp. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Innovative Body Science Corp
Michelle Bartok, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Innovative Body Science Corp, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Innovative Body Science Corp to submit testimony for the record. As President of the Innovative Body Science Corp, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Innovative Body Science Corp. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Innovative Body Science Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Amerimax Building Products, Inc.
Mike Boyte, QA Manager, Lean Six Sigma Deployment Champion
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Amerimax Building Products, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Lean Six Sigma Deployment Champion at Amerimax Building Products, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

Amerimax Building Products, founded in the 1950s and headquartered in Plano, Texas is the premier supplier of quality products for the Recreational Vehicle, Manufactured Housing and Modular Building industries. In addition, their recreational vehicle doors, residential replacement vinyl windows and patio systems are considered the finest in their respective markets. They employ 84 in Texas and generated nationwide sales of $280M in 2006.

Situation
With over 800 employees at 18 plants scattered across 10 states, Amerimax felt challenged to provide a consistent product for the growing housing and RV markets. In 2004 President Scott Anderson made a decision to commit to a formal process improvement program at Amerimax. The company chose Lean Six Sigma, a powerful methodology that combines the waste reduction toolset of Lean with the structure and analytical tools of Six Sigma.

Solution
Amerimax selected the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC), via a referral from the George Group, for its training needs. TMAC provided Lean Six Sigma Executive, Black Belt, and Green Belt training to Amerimax. Additional coaching was also used on specific projects. The training, which included the DMAIC Process (**D**efine, **M**easure, **A**nalyze, **I**mprove & **C**ontrol) plus both basic and advanced tools, has been used to solve problems of all types at Amerimax. Green Belts attend a two-week course while Black Belts attend a more rigorous

four-week course.
Amerimax has been continuously sending staff from around the U.S. to LSS training at the TMAC Metroplex office since 2004. To date (2007) they have trained 6 Black Belts, and 40+ Green Belts.

Results
From 2005 through 2007, Amerimax has saved over $2.1M through the Lean Six Sigma Program. Some of the specific projects include (annualized data):

BLACK BELT PROJECTS

- $500k reduction in back-orders
- $300k reduction in direct shipping costs

GREEN BELT PROJECTS

- $633k saved in scrap reduction
- $68k reduction in setup costs
- $59k order entry and production accuracy savings
- $30k reduction in order entry costs
- $94k reduction in labor costs
- $64k reduction in labor costs

Rodney Schonefeld, National Operations Manager, said that "The LSS training we received from TMAC and the deployment of this program throughout our organization is resulting in a cultural change leading to continuous improvement activities netting bottom line results through improved quality, process efficiencies and customer service."

County: Collin (Corporate) & Johnson (Mansfield Plant)
Industry: RV, Modular and Residential Building Products www.amerimaxbp.com
Services Provided: Lean Six Sigma Black Belt & Green Belt Training. For more information, please visit www.texsleansixsigma.com.

Amerimax Building Products believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and row the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

DYTRAN
INSTRUMENTS, INC.

Dytran Instruments, Inc.
21592 Marilla St. Chatsworth, CA 91311 Ph: 818-700-7818 Fax: 818-700-7880
www.dytran.com email: info@dytran.com

Testimony of Dytran Instruments Inc.
Michael Change, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Dytran Instruments Inc., located in Chatsworth, CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Dytran Instruments Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of Dytran Instruments Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Dytran Instruments Inc. did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we engaged them to assist us with an AS9100 and ISO/IEC 17025 A2LA implementation implementation which resulted in the following bottom-line impacts for our company.

Sales Increase: $1,000,000
Retained Sales: $1,000,000
Jobs Added: 16
Employees Retained: 9
Cost Savings: $200,000
Increased Productivity: 10%
Increased Competitiveness: 25%

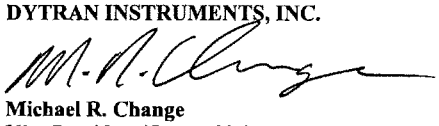
This support from CMTC led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a manufacturer in a globally competitive marketplace we find this to be a unique program unlike

any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Dytran Instruments Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

DYTRAN INSTRUMENTS, INC.



Michael R. Change
Vice President/General Manager

Testimony of the Strato Inc
Michael Foxx, President/CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Strato Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President/CEO** of the **Strato Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has worked with us on Lean Manufacturing and that has resulted to 50% less space and 30 to 50 late production orders per day to nearly zero. There have been major reductions in setup time from 2 hours to 5 minutes, and 5 hours to 20 minutes. In process material reduced from 1000's to 50. These are just some of the numerious benefits we have received from NJMEP.

Strato Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the S W Electronics & Manufacturing Corp
Michael Galvin Quality Assurance Director
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **S W Electronics & Manufacturing Corp**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Quality Assurance Director** of the **S W Electronics & Manufacturing Corp**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Over the past 5 years we have worked closely with NJMEP and they haven't let us down, we are continually improving, growing and more profitable, sales have expanded by 19%, employees retained over 35 and new hires increased by 11, our lead-times are reduced by 15% and quality improved by 29%. NJMEP is a resource to small business that must remain viable. If not where do we go for assistance?

S W Electronics & Manufacturing Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Michael Galvin

Testimony of Interstate Highway Sign Corp.
Michael L. Holland, Chief Financial Officer
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I, Michael L. Holland, would like to thank the Committee for allowing Interstate Highway Sign Corp. ("the Company") to submit testimony for the record. As Chief Financial Officer of the Company, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Interstate Highway Sign Corp. has called upon the expertise of the professionals Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions on a number of critical projects over the past 2 years. In addition, to consulting on projects that improved inventory and material handling controls, AMS has helped to train nearly 100 of the Company's workers in Lean Manufacturing principles. This is the best kind of training, because all instruction is followed with actual "on-the-floor" implementation of the principles. The operational improvements from this training would not have been possible without the cost-effective services of AMS, which are reliant on the MEP funding. In today's globally competitive marketplace, it is extremely important that such resources are made available to domestic manufacturers such as Interstate Highway Sign Corp.

Interstate Highway Sign Corp. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology, which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Crown Engineering Corp.
Michael Palmer, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Crown Engineering Corp.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **Crown Engineering Corp.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company recently completed a QuickView Assessment conducted by the NJMEP. The Quickview results showed that we are doing some things well, however there are areas where we can improve and increase productivity. We discussed "Lean" manufacturing and its benefits to our operations. It was explained that there are seminars (workshops) we can attend, and try "hands on" problem solving exercises. I fully intend to attend one with my plant manager. Thanks NJMEP for being there to help manufactures in New Jersey be more profitable and stay in New Jersey.

Crown Engineering Corp. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Structural Composites Industries

325 Enterprise Place
Pomona, CA 91768 USA
Telephone: 909-594-7777
Web: www.SCIcomposites.com

Testimony of Structural Composites Industries L.L.C.
Kenneth O. Miller, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
March 13, 2008

On behalf of Structural Composites Industries, located in Pomona CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Structural Composites Industries to submit testimony for the record. As President of Structural Composites Industries, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Structural Composites Industries did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we engaged them to assist us with an AS9100 implementation implementation which resulted in the following bottom-line impacts for our company.

Sales Increase: $900,000
Retained Sales: $2,500,000
Jobs Added: 32
Employees Retained: 13
Cost Savings: $100,000
Investment in Our Plant and Workforce: $172,740
Increased Competitiveness:

This support from CMTC led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a manufacturer in a globally competitive marketplace we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in the commercial aviation business.

Structural Composites Industries

325 Enterprise Place
Pomona, CA 91768 USA
Telephone: 909-594-7777
Web: www.SCIcomposites.com

Structural Composites Industries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Kenneth O. Miller
President
Structural Composites Industries L.L.C.
325 Enterprise Pl.
Pomona, CA. 91768
Tele: 909-444-2533
Email: kmiller@scicomposites.com

SGS SGS
TAYLOR-WHARTON INTERNATIONAL

Mitch Cahn
New Jersey Headwear Corp. ASI 73775
PO Box 7009 (ship 305 3rd Ave W) Newark, NJ 07107
toll free: 1-877-WEAR UNION (932-7864) x 112
fax: 973/497-7708
mitch@unionwear.com

April 15, 2008

Testimony of the New Jersey Headwear Corp
Mitch Cahn, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the New Jersey Headwear Corp, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As CEO of New Jersey Headwear Corp, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The Lean training program has significantly transformed our business into a more profitable and competitive business. The improvements achieved have improved productivity by 50%, reduced our manufacturing interval by two-thirds, increased on-time delivery to 95% and decreased work-in-process inventory by 75%. We also freed up floor space, which will now allow us to expand our production operation.

Rework was substantially reduced resulting in reduced cost of quality. Lean enabled us to migrate to self-directed work teams, which have reduced demands on management's time, allowing a greater focus on other areas like Sales and Finance. As a result of this improvement to our business we were able to absorb increases in hourly wage rates and have another product family. We are presently "Leaning Out" an acquired manufacturing operation that had failed when being operating under old management styles.

New Jersey Headwear Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Very truly yours,

Mitch Cahn

Testimony of Triangle Manufacturing Co. Inc.
Neal Strohmeyer, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Triangle Manufacturing Co. Inc, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President of Triangle Manufacturing Co. Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has provided us with Lean Manufacturing training for our people. We continue to invest in Lean Manufacturing and are committed to continuous improvement. We have seen a return on investment that is at least five times our investment on an annualized basis.

Triangle Manufacturing Co. Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Triangle Manufacturing Company Inc
www.triangleinfg.com

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F 201.825.0402

Commercial Group
25 Park Way
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458
T 201.825.1212
F 201.934.0646

Testimony of the Flair Electronics Inc.
Morgan Morgan, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Flair Electronics Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Flair Electronics Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As President of the Flair Electronics Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Flair Electronics Inc. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Flair Electronics Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Jeannot Fine Furniture
Nicole Miller, Marketing Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Jeannot Fine Furniture, located in Van Nuys CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Jeannot Fine Furniture to submit testimony for the record. As Marketing Managerof Jeannot Fine Furniture, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically of the work Jeannot Fine Furniture did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Jeannot Fine Furniture believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Oasis Manufacturing
John Williams, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Oasis Manufacturing, located in Laguna Hills California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Oasis Manufacturing to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof Oasis Manufacturing, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Oasis Manufacturing did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Oasis Manufacturing believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Gulton Incorporated
Om P.Srivastava, President & CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Gulton Incorporated**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my Company to submit testimony for the record. As **President & CEO** of the **Gulton Incorporated**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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With NJMEP's help, we received training grants from the NJ Department of Labor. The NJMEP instructor has been training our associates for more than two years. We are currently utilizing some of the techniques of Lean Manufacturing in our production departments. Our cells are better organized for efficiency. We have developed a skilled work force which will lead us in the future. Manufacturing engineers are better trained to define, measure, analyze and control production processes to improve the work flow and reduce the cost. Production associates are now motivated to contribute in the improvement of quality and productivity.

Gulton Incorporated believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Jeng's Co.
Dr. One-Jeng Jeng
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Jeng's Company**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Jeng's Company**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.
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Since the mission of Jeng's is to provide industrial ergonomics services to small business, New Jersey MEP has been a valuable partner of Jeng's to assist to identify local manufacturing facilities in New Jersey. Some of those manufacturing facilities, which would not have the resource of having their own ergonomists, are benefited to receive services from Jeng's for seeking improvements of workers safety and health. We strongly believe that the MEP program not only makes great economic sense to the US business, but also enhance the wellbeing of the US workforces.

Jeng's Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely yours,

One-Jang Jeng, Ph.D.President, Jeng's 17 Stonelea Dr.

Testimony of SPARTA Composite Products
Paul Oppenheim, Vice President and General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

March 26, 2008

On behalf of SPARTA Composite Products (SPARTA), located in San Diego CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing SPARTA to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President and General Manager of SPARTA, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

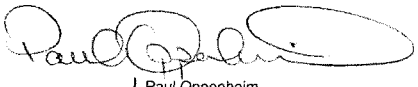
MEP has a nationwide network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically of the work SPARTA did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we engaged them to assist us with a Lean 101 Workshop which resulted in the following bottom-line impacts for our company:

With CMTC's support, SPARTA Investment in Our Plant and Workforce in 2007 an estimated amount of $23,400. This invesment was used specifically for the training and implementation of Lean practices that were led and instructed by CMTC.

This support from CMTC led us to increased productivity and higher profits for this program. As a manufacturer in a globally competitive marketplace we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program.

SPARTA Composites believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.



Paul Oppenheim
VP and General Manager
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714-323-9664 (Mobile)
858-455-1698 (Fax)
Mailto: paul.oppenheim@sparta.com
Website: http://www.composites.sparta.com

Testimony of the Siemens Building Technologies
Anthony Pascale, Sr. Director of Manufacturing
,
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Siemens Building Technologies manufacturing facility in Florham Park, NJ**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Sr. Director of Manufacturing of the Siemens Building Technologies facility in Florham Park, NJ** I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The Manufacturing organization at Siemens Building Technologies is always looking for ways to improve operational efficiencies. With the assistance of NJMEP we recently completed Lean training. As a result of this training we have increased the skill set of our employees and have begun to implement process improvements which will reduce cycle times, reduce operating costs and increase quality throughput. MEP is a valuable resource to the US manufacturing community.

Siemens Building Technologies facility in Florham Park, NJ believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Aircraft Stamping Co., Inc.
Mr. Michael D. Nolan, President

To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Aircraft Stamping Co., Inc., located in South El Monte California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Aircraft Stamping Co., Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof Aircraft Stamping Co., Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Aircraft Stamping Co., Inc. did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Aircraft Stamping Co., Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Lakewood Development Corporation,
an Urban Enterprise Zone Administration
Patricia A. Komsa
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **The Lakewood Development Corporation (Urban Enterprise Zone)**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my organization to submit testimony for the record. As **Deputy Coordinator – Program Management for the Lakewood UEZ**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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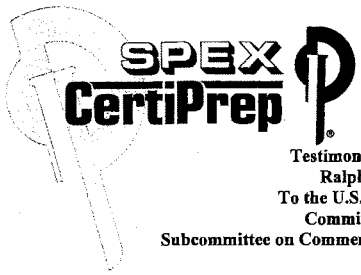
The Lakewood UEZ is currently working through the NJMEP to outreach our member companies located within the Urban Enterprise Zone. The services and training that NJMEP can provide will benefit all of the manufacturing companies within the zone. We are so impressed with the results shown by the NJMEP during the last ten years, that we have initiated the outreach program and are embarking on our pilot project with a small manufacturing company within the UEZ. We expect to initiate training through NJMEP within the next two months.

The Lakewood UEZ believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.



March 14, 2008

Testimony of the SPEX CertiPrep
Ralph Obenauf, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **SPEX CertiPrep**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **SPEX CertiPrep**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Working with NJMEP allowed SPEX CertiPrep to attend a hands-on workshop about Lean Manufacturing that we have not known about or been able to afford. We sent a large number of employees to this training, and we have started to implement the process and it is working for us.

SPEX CertiPrep believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Ralph Obenauf
President

203 NORCROSS AVE. ■ METUCHEN, NJ 08840 ■ TEL: 732-549-7144 ■ FAX: 732-603-9547 ■ EMAIL: CertiPrep@spexcsp.com
WEBSITE: www.spexcsp.com

Testimony of the CBR Woodworking LLC
Robert Schultz, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **CBR Woodworking LLC**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **CBR Woodworking LLC**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The Quickview Assessment was very informative and shed light on some areas of my business that I will focus on to improve my company. Thank you NJMEP for helping manufactures in New Jersey be more profitable and stay in New Jersey

CBR Woodworking LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Robert Schultz
Owner / President
CBR Woodworking L.L.C.

Testimony of Xtech Industries
Paul Anthony, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Xtech Industries, located in Bakersfield, CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Xtech Industries to submit testimony for the record. As President of Xtech Industries, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Xtech Industries did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Xtech Industries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Corporate Communications
Design Group

March 14, 2008

Testimony of PFA Designs, Inc.
Paul Hebert, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of PFA Designs, Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing PFA Designs, Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As President of PFA Designs, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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I have witnessed the impact of the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, Inc. (NJMEP) has made to the growth and prosperity to a diverse range of businesses throughout the State of New Jersey. Implementation of the NJMEP's Lean programs to streamline production processes and office

continued next page.

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voice: 973.292.9333
fax: 973.539.7428
email: info@pfadesigns.com
internet: www.pfadesigns.com

Corporate Communications
Design Group

administration has enabled many organizations to maintain their presence and thrive in New Jersey.

It is safe to say that not continuing to fund the MEP will result in a detrimental impact on our State's economy. We will see a higher growth in unemployment as a result of these businesses being forced to leave the State or close down operations entirely.

PFA Designs, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Hebert
President

27 Columbia Road
Morristown, NJ 07960

voice: 973.292.9333
fax: 973.539.7428

email: info@pfadesigns.com
internet: www.pfadesigns.com

Testimony of the America Custom Drying Company
Paul McFarland, Plant Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of American Custom Drying, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Plant Manager of American Custom Drying, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We have been working with NJMEP on a waste water reduction project for a couple of years now. They provide resources that we do not have on staff and have been very helpful in working with us on reducing our operating costs. They served as a liason to our township water authority and have been very helpful in introducing us to new business partners within the state. We are continuing to work with NJMEP on further cost reduction and they continue to support our efforts to remain profitable and productive.

American Custom Drying believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

AMFUEL

Testimony of the AMFUEL
Scott Brice, Safety Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing AMFUEL to submit testimony for the record. As Safety Manager of AMFUEL, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the MEP is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The assistance provided by Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions through their Technology Transfer Grant Program allowed us to retain 40 jobs that would have been lost and to retain over 5 million in sales. We were able to save several contracts and to continue to improve our safety and manufacturing processes. This program is an excellent program that provides a much needed service to manufacturers in Arkansas.

AMFUEL believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Scott Brice, Amfuel Safety Manager

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Phone (870) 234-3381 Fax (870) 235-7358
http://www.amfuel.com

Testimony of BRECO*flex* CO., L.L.C.
Willi Fuellemann, President & CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **BRECO*flex* CO., L.L.C.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President & CEO** of **BRECO*flex* CO., L.L.C.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

NJMEP has helped our company to become more competitive and lean. Over the past 4 years we have enjoyed working with them, and as a result of their work and input, have been able to transform our company. We have been able to increase employee morale, cooperation and efficiencies. We will definitely continue to work with them in the future.

BRECO*flex* CO., L.L.C. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Deluxe Financial Services
Steve Penna, Site Leader
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Deluxe Financial Services**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Site Leader** of the **Deluxe Financial Services**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our Corporation has collaborated with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to implement Lean Manufacturing Techniques. A small sampling of benefits these methods have provided us include: Improving Delivering and Quality to our Customers, Reducing our Operational Costs, Decreasing our Internal Manufacturing Cycle Time and Enabling our Employees to be cross trained in additional parts of the production process leading to enhanced Job Enrichment. Without the assistance and expertise of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, these changes would have been a challenge for us to achieve successfully in the period they were accomplished.

Deluxe Financial Services believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Roysons Corporation
Peter Cohan, CFO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Roysons Corporation**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **CFO** of the **Roysons Corporation**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program that is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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I have found New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program to be a helpful resource for our company. NJMEP is reliable, professional and able to deliver effective service that has made a respectable contribution to our growth and development here in New Jersey. NJMEP recently introduced the R&D Tax Credit Program, enabling Roysons to recover considerable R&D tax credits. This is very helpful and NJMEP made this possible for us. Roysons endorses the NJMEP program. We consider MEP a vital resource to all manufacturers in all states. We insist that NJMEP programs remain in force and that funding sources remain in tack and if possible, be increased

Roysons Corporation believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Lunetta Marketing & Advertising Peter J. Lunetta, Owner To the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Lunetta Marketing & Advertising, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Owner of Lunetta Marketing & Advertising, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.
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For example, I work as a resource for the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, and I have witnessed firsthand the effectiveness of their work. Having consulted with several of their clients, I have seen these client firms add jobs, invest in new equipment and expand their marketing into new market niches, thus providing for new jobs. In addition, your support of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) assures continued employment of NJMEP's resource companies and the jobs they provide to their workers. Consequently, there is a multiplier effect that increases the efficiency of every dollar invested in the program.

Lunetta Marketing & Advertising believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

I thank the Committee for its time.
Respectfully Submitted,
Peter J. Lunetta
Lunetta Marketing & Advertising
609-915-6560
pjlunetta@yahoo.com

Testimony of RBC Bearings
Paul Harclerode Plant Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the RBC Bearings, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Plant Manager of the RBC Bearings West Trenton New Jersey Division I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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"As a result of a fact finding tour and visit to our facility, we realized our need to improve and save the jobs of our 65 union associates, NJMEP has given us the path to follow and the expertise to accomplish our journey, we support NJMEP as a viable resource to small manufacturers."

RBC Bearings believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Philatron International
Philip Ramos, Jr, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Philatron International, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Philatron International to submit testimony for the record. As CEO of the Philatron International, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Philatron International. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Philatron International believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of P Feiner & Sons Inc.
Philip Feiner, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **P Feiner & Sons Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of the **P Feiner & Sons Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We are in the midst of NJMEP assistance in the areas of Marketing and Lean Manufacturing. Access to the MEP program is vital to the survival of small business such as ourselves in the state of New Jersey.

P Feiner & Sons Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of 901D and Shock Tech Inc. (STI)
Mr. Frank Duvergne, General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the 901D and Shock Tech, Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing us to submit testimony for the record. As General Manager of 901D and Shock Tech., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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901D and Shock Tech Inc. were very pleased with the work and services provided to us by the Hudson Valley Technology Development Center, Inc. (HVTDC). HVTDC is one of 10 New York State Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers serving small to mid-size manufacturers in the seven county Hudson Valley New York region. The following success story highlights details of the important work HVTDC provided to 901D and Shock Tech Inc.

"Going Lean" To Produce Military Supplies

"For the past ten years, we've been manufacturing cabinets and racks for the U.S. Department of Defense. It's mandatory that every product we make meets several environmental requirements that often exceed the most rigid demands of the military and industrial markets. With increased demand for our products, our challenge was to find ways to streamline our operations and cut our costs."

These are comments by Serge Seguin, President and Owner of two top-ranked military supply manufacturing firms, 901D and Shock Tech Inc., in Tallman, New York. These two sister companies build cabinets, racks, consoles and enclosures to protect and hold military electronics equipment and computer screens against harsh environments such as shock, vibration, thermal temperature management, cabling and power management.

Shock Tech, Inc. and 901D are full service engineering and manufacturing firms that provide innovative, cost effective solutions and packaging systems for the use of TRUE COTS equipment under all MIL standards for the Navy, Army, Marines and Air Force. 901D takes its name from the standard MIL-S-901D. Shock Tech designs and manufactures shock- and vibration-isolation systems for military and industrial applications and is considered the market leader in the field. Their products are present in virtually every U.S. Army HUMVEE and a large number of U.S. Air Force planes.

As General Manager for both Shock Tech, Inc. (STI) and 901D since the beginning of 2007, one of my roles has been to help them 'go lean' by helping to oversee training of employees in Lean 101 and Value Stream Mapping for better productivity and profitability. Lean 101 and Value Stream Mapping are proven methodologies for significantly saving productivity dollars by streamlining operations. Lean helps a company find areas of daily operations that are non-productive or hindering overall productivity. By eliminating these areas, we will save both precious time and money.

To implement the Lean training, we realized that we needed guidance from an outside consulting agency. After receiving a 37L Building Skills Grant from New York State (BUSINYS) in 2006, we sought guidance to train our 75 employees from the not-for-profit business resource center, HVTDC, the Hudson Valley Technology Development Center (HVTDC) in Fishkill, New York. Thomas G. Phillips, Sr., HVTDC Executive Director, states that HVTDC's forte is in Lean training. "Lean is a well-proven methodology that significantly helps staff members in any type of company or operation to work faster, more efficiently, and more profitably. We train employees to work better without jeopardizing the quality of products or services they provide."

HVTDC is well known throughout the Hudson Valley for its award-winning work of helping manufacturing, technology-based and small to mid-sized companies and organizations adopt new business practices in order to grow. As one of ten regional technology development centers funded cooperatively through the NYS Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation (formerly NYSTAR) and the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST), they are known for helping companies and organizations work more efficiently, effectively and profitably by streamlining daily operations.

Lean training began for 901D with "5S" training of key production floor managers plus instruction in Value Stream Mapping for engineering staff members. "5S" training is designed to accelerate a company's product and service flow while achieving and sustaining clean, safe and organized workplaces. The 5S's equate to sorting through items; setting remaining items in order; shining or cleaning everything; standardizing the first three S's by implementing visual displays and control; then sustaining the gains through self-discipline, training, communications and total employee involvement. Managers at 901D and ShockTech have reported a number of impressive, tangible results to date from the training. "Our production floor is much cleaner, and productivity has increased by 15%."

Earlier in 2007, Value Stream Mapping teams of staff members reviewed specific processes in their production lines, and then they mapped out each step taken to complete each process. Those teams mapped current operational processes, or the current value stream, and identified steps required to put actual value into producing the company's products. They analyzed and recorded how long each step took, then determined where the most time, or non-value added resources, was being applied, and they eliminated counter-productive steps. The teams also mapped out what the future process should look like so they could plan where they want to get lean, and how they're going to continue to reach their goals.

901D and Shock Tech Inc. believe that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Thank you,

Frank Duvergne

Frank Duvergne
General Manager
901D and Shock Tech Inc.

Testimony of the Pierre Debs Inc.
Pierre Debs, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Pierre Debs Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Pierre Debs Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Owner of the Pierre Debs Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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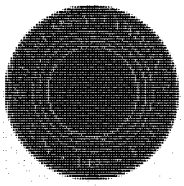
Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Pierre Debs Inc. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Pierre Debs Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.



NWACC

Learning For Living

Testimony of NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Dr. Derek Crews, Vice President for Workforce Development
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of NorthWest Arkansas Community College, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing NorthWest Arkansas Community College to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President for Workforce Development for NorthWest Arkansas Community College, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NorthWest Arkansas Community College believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

ONE COLLEGE DRIVE · BENTONVILLE, AR 72712 · 479-636-9222 · 1-800-995-6922 · WWW.NWACC.EDU

Testimony of the Sancoa International
Ralph Cicchini, Director of Continuous Improvement
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Sancoa International**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Director of Continuous Improvement** of the **Sancoa International**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Sancoa completed some process improvement training and on floor implentation with the help of NJMEP.The results we have seen have been dramatic in terms of increased productivity and decreased waste, which are crucial to our operation. I have worked with other organizations in the past, and I can say that our experience with NJMEP was one of the best experiences I have had. We have seen dramatic improvements and are planning our next project with NJMEP now. In order to remain competitive in today's market, we need to have an excellent workforce. The training we have done and will be doing, helps keep us in New Jersey.

Sancoa International believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ralph Cicchini
Director of Continuous Improvement
Sancoa International

Testimony of the Universal Forest Products Inc
Randy Bell, Plant Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Universal Forest Products Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Plant Manager** of the **Universal Forest Products Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Universal Forest Products is comitted to Lean, from the top down. We had taken the initiative to be one of the first to roll out the program in our facility. We have been working with NJMEP to bring technical expertise and proven methodologies into our plant. As a relatively new player in this geographic market, we need to take advantage of every competitive advantage we have to gain market share. We've already realized significant time and cost savings and as we continue down this path we know we'll see more.

Universal Forest Products Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Axiom xCell, Inc.
Ray Traynor, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Axiom xCell, Inc., located in San Diego California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Axiom xCell, Inc. to submit testimony for the record. As Vice Presidentof Axiom xCell, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Axiom xCell, Inc. did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Axiom xCell, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Ray Traynor
Vice President General Manager
Axiom xCell, Inc.
7940 Silverton Suite 101
San Diego, CA 92126
(858) 578-7278 ext. 202 office
(858) 717-9431 mobile
(858) 876-1662 efax

SKYPE: ray.traynor

Visit us at: http://www.axiomxcell.com

Testimony of Michael J. Coast to the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, April 2nd, 2008

Chairman Mollohan, Congressman Frelinghuysen, and Members of the Subcommittee – Thank you for this opportunity to appear today. I am Michael J. Coast, President of the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, Michigan's affiliate of the national Manufacturing Extension Partnership. I am also the current Chairman of the American Small Manufacturers Coalition, the trade association of the 59 MEP centers. I testify today to request funding of $122 million for the MEP program of the Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The situation facing small and medium-sized US manufacturers is dire, and the President's proposed elimination of federal funding for MEP would unnecessarily aggravate that situation.

There are 30,000 fewer small and medium-sized manufacturing plants in the US today than there were a decade ago. In Michigan, there were 16,000 such facilities in 1998; today, there are barely 13,000. Thanks to increased imports of both manufactured products and their parts, US manufacturing value-added is essentially unchanged over the past decade; in my state of Michigan, it is quite clearly lower.

This is not some long-term decline analogous to the job losses in agriculture over the past century. In agriculture, employment fell because of rising productivity, but real output grew, and continues to grow. No, in manufacturing, the issue is the failure of many small and medium-sized companies to perform well enough to withstand the competitive pressures of a globalized economy in which the US operations of most of their traditional customers are no longer growing. With the sharp slowdown in economic activity that began last October, the situation has become even more difficult. US manufacturing employment has plunged from 17.6 million in 1998 to less than 13.7 million today. Since last August, manufacturing has been losing an average of 60,000 jobs a month, a sharp reversal after a four-year period of relative stability.

MEP centers have proven over the past decade or more that they can help these smaller manufacturers succeed despite this challenging landscape. In a typical recent year, National MEP centers' clients credit their services with:

- Improving productivity for eight in ten companies, with cost savings totaling $1.1 billion;
- Helping the companies served to add or retain nearly $6.8 billion in sales and 52 thousand jobs; and
- Inducing those companies to make more than $1.6 billion in additional investments.

These national numbers matter to our economy and to your communities. Here are some district-level impacts for the most recent year of impact survey data:

- In West Virginia's first congressional district, companies served by the West Virginia MEP credit their projects with $13.2 million in new or retained sales, 112 jobs, $550,000 in cost savings, and $947,000 in new investments.
- In New Jersey's 11th congressional district, clients credit the New Jersey MEP with helping them add or retain $22.1 million in sales, create or retain 320 jobs, reduce costs by $3.7 million, and make $6.4 million in additional investments.

In my home state of Michigan, my center's clients credit us with more than $100 million in new and retained sales, 956 jobs, $18 million in cost savings, and more than $30 million in induced investment.

As their traditional customers globalize, smaller manufacturers have found that they need to do more than improve quality and reduce costs to remain competitive. The MEP network has responded by developing or partnering to acquire new services that help them seek out new customers; evaluate new markets and product concepts; and improve the way they develop and launch new products. Indeed, MEP's new catchword is "20/20" – expressing that smaller manufacturers need not just 20% lower costs, but also 20% top-line growth. At the Michigan MEP center, services related to new customers, new markets, and new products have grown from almost nothing to about 15% of our total service portfolio. By 2010, I expect that they will exceed 25% of what we do with our clients.

Congress recognized the effectiveness of the MEP program last year when it passed the America COMPETES Act. That legislation foresaw the need not only to maintain, but to grow, MEP. Under the Act, MEP's federal funding would rise from its recent $104-106-million annual level to $122 million for FY 2009, with further increases in FY 2010 and FY 2011.

Despite MEP's track record of impact and efficiency, and ignoring the will of the Congress, the President now proposes the virtual elimination of federal funding for MEP. One can debate what the precise effect of this would be, but the main outcomes are beyond dispute. Many centers would close. The rest would shrink significantly, partly because many states' support for the centers is explicitly in the form of matching funds that could be withdrawn if federal funding were to end. Some have argued that smaller manufacturers could go out and buy services similar to those offered by the MEP centers from private sector consulting firms. But history shows that, without some public funding to offset the cost of outreach and sales, consultants shy away from all but the best-heeled small companies. And that's only logical: without public funds, my center and most others would also have no choice but to focus on larger manufacturers.

With your help, however, the nation can avoid this sharp reduction in services to smaller manufacturers. By turning back the President's proposal and returning to the support levels authorized by the America COMPETES Act, the Congress can save MEP and help it grow. MEP is the country's only nation program created specifically to help the US small manufacturing base and preserve its nearly 10 million good jobs. At this moment of grave risk to manufacturing and the rest of the economy, MEP brings otherwise unavailable technical expertise to tens of thousands of struggling US companies.

In closing, I urge you – on behalf of my center, the other 58 centers of the MEP network, and the nearly 340,000 small and medium-sized manufacturers across the nation -- to act to restore full funding to MEP.

Thank you.

Michael J. Cort

West Virginia Companies – FCD 1
Automated Packaging Systems
B Machine Products
Criterion Catalysts and Tech. L. P.
Criterion Inc.
CWS Company
Dawnview Center
Dyna-Mix
Europtec USA (formerly Eagle Glass)
FMW Composites
Graftech
Hinchcliff Lumber
Impress USA
Kreinik Manufacturing Co. Inc.
Laser Processing
Leveltek Incorporated
Matthews International
Metso
Nolan Industrial Coatings Incorporated
Ohio Valley Scale
Philips Lighting Co.
Precision Tool and Machine
Preston Cty Sheltered Workshop Inc.
Pro Stainless Inc.
Ruskin Manufacturing
SFK Pulp
Shutler Cabinets
SimEx
Simply Sparse Technologies
Snyder Industries
Stockmeier Urethanes
Swanson Industries Inc.
Teknetix Incorporated
TETRA Technologies
Thermo Gauge Instruments Inc.
Tri-State Electric & Machine Co. Inc.
Warwood Armature Repair Company
White Guitars
Wilson Works
Ziegenfelder Company Inc.

New Jersey Companies – FCD 11
A M E Corp
Accurate Screw Machine Products Co. Inc
Anderol Company
Arlington Machine & Tool Company
Bel-Art Products
Brooklyn Cheesecake & Desserts
Camfil Farr Inc.
Catbridge Machinery
Coherent Crystal Associates Inc.
Control Products Inc.
Control Screening LLC
Convertech Inc
Cortegra Group Inc.
Croll Reynolds Inc.
Douglas Electrical Components
Drive-Master Co. Inc.
E P Medsystems Inc
Ethicon Inc.
F P 1 Thermoplastic Technologies
Fisher Scientific Company L.L.C.
Four Star Reproduction Inc
G E Aviation
General Wire & Stamping Co. Inc
Green Power Chemical Sciences
International Foodsource
Johanson Manufacturing Corp.
Lamtec Corp.
Linker Machines
Mechanical Institute Company
Middle Atlantic Products
Millipore Corporation
National Manufacturing Co Inc
North Jersey Media Group
Norwalt Design Inc.
Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical
Packaging Associates Automation Inc.
Parker Hannifin Corp.
Plastiform Packaging Inc
Quest Int'l. Fragrances USA Inc
R E M Manufacturing Inc
R S Microwave Co. Inc
Raritan Valley Community College
RHM Technology Inc
Rockline Industries
Roysons Corporation
San Rallo Pasta Company
Sensor Scientific Inc
Service Metal Fabricating
Siemens Building Technologies
Somerset Wood Products Company
Stone Truss Systems Inc
TechFlex Inc.
V & L Machine and Tool Co. Inc.
Waveline Inc.

Success Story Summaries, by Members' Districts

CWS Company, (Div. of Swanson Industries) (West Virginia - Cong. Mollohan)
- CWS has in-house build and test abilities to provide the fastest delivery of a variety of hydraulic components.
- MEP helped in the implementation of an ISO 9000:2000 Quality Management System.
- Results include a reduction in returned goods 5% and increased productivity by 50%, leading to an increase in sales by $10,800 daily.

Caperton Furnitureworks (West Virginia – Cong. Mollohan)
- Caperton Furnitureworks is in a very competitive industry that must constantly strive to reduce and control overhead and operating costs, while keeping pace with foreign competition.
- WVMEP helped develop an energy reduction and management program.
- Results include recommended changes to energy consuming systems, leading to an immediate $23,300 in annual savings.

Johanson Manufacturing (New Jersey – Cong. Freylinghusen)
- A family-owned and -operated manufacturer of precision electronic and fiber optic product
- MEP helped provide a number of employee training and implementation programs including lean.
- Results include immediate savings of $60,000, additional sales of $6.1 million over the next 18 months and 12 jobs with the possibility of 6 additional jobs created.

Colonial Mills Inc. (Rhode Island – Cong. Kennedy)
- CMI has 150 employees in their Pawtucket, Rhode Island, facility where the company produces thousands of square feet of braided products per day
- MEP helped CMI address speed to market issues.
- Results include delivery time reduced from 25 to 5 days, guaranteeing a 30-day delivery, reduced inventory levels by 30%, and increased productivity 15%.

Alcore Inc. (Maryland – Cong. Ruppersberger)
- Alcore's products are used in aircraft control surfaces and flooring and engine enclosures, as well as in space and satellite components.
- MEP helped find ways to reduce phosphorous, an environmental pollutant, from its wastewater discharge.
- Results include projected Annual savings of $74,200.

Coherent (California – Cong. Honda)
- World's leader in photonics, supplying laser systems, components, laser measurement, control products, and precision optics to over 80 countries
- MEP helped implement a lean manufacturing culture.
- Results include $1.5 million in cost savings, retained sales of $8.7 million, investments of $634,000 and lead time reduction of 22%.

Engineering Specialties Inc. (Connecticut – Cong. DeLauro)
- Engineering Specialties manufactures metal stampings and mechanical assemblies, primarily for the automotive industry.
- MEP assisted in implementing an ISO TS 16949 program.
- Engineering Specialties successfully received ISO TS 16949 certification, retained 10 jobs, retained a major customer and increased efficiency.

Potters Industries Inc (North Carolina – Cong. Price)
- PII is the world's largest facility for turning recycled glass into beads of engineered glass materials serving the highway safety, polymer additive, metal finishing, and conductive particle markets.
- MEP helped implement an ISO 9000 program.
- PII successfully received ISO 9000 certification.

American Medical Identifications (Texas – Cong. Culberson)

- AMI serves the international medical community and general public by offering quality medical identification products.
- MEP was called in to conduct an assessment and recommend operational improvements.
- Results include $1 million in cost savings, inventory reduction of 30%, reduced work in process and a 20% increase in internet orders.

Stidham Cabinet Inc (Kentucky – Cong. Rogers)

- The family-owned and -operated business recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and is a fabricator of high-quality custom, commercial and residential cabinets and countertops.
- MEP was contacted to provide an objective third-party assessment and recommend improvements
- Results include an improved profit margin, increased revenue, cost savings of $35,000 and an improved work environment

Mary Ann's Specialty Foods Inc (Iowa – Cong. Latham)

- Mary Ann's processes meat into cold-packed configurations for customers that sell to the larger retail grocery chains in the United States.
- MEP helped answer key waste treatment and plant renovation questions and helped Mary Ann's remain compliant with stringent food safety regulations.
- Results include an increase in sales by $155,000, cost savings of $80,000, 4 additional jobs, and a $165,000 investment in plant and equipment.

Sunshine Mills (Alabama – Cong. Aderholt)

- The family-owned company produces over 600 million pounds of dry food and pet treats.
- MEP helped sunshine reduce on-the-job injuries.
- Results include $500,000 in cost savings, a 60% reduction in occupational injuries and illnesses and helped reduce workers' compensation costs by 40% and employee turnover by 20%.

Testimony of the Osteotech, Inc.
Robert Honneffer, Sr. V.P. Global Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Osteotech, Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Senior Vice President – Operations** for **Osteotech,** I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company has been implementing a Lean Transformation project under the supervision and guidance of the NJMEP. The focus of the project is to involve various functional groups to transition from a Push system of planning our production activities to a Demand/Pull system. We anticipate an improvement in customer service levels and a decrease in inventory investment. We will reinvest these savings in purchases of additional equipment and modifications to our facility to support new product introductions. Training is ongoing and additional Quality System implementations are being planned under the aegis of NJMEP. We extend our thanks to NJMEP for their efforts in making this Lean Transformation a success.

Osteotech, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Positive Impact Associates, Inc.
Richard C. Reale, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Positive Impact Associates, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing us to submit testimony for the record. As President of Positive Impact Associates, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve the competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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By working with the New Jersey MEP program, we have been able to help our clients achieve substantial improvements in efficiency and productivity. Our collaboration with NJMEP has also helped us grow our own small business.

Positive Impact Associates believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony Iaddic Shelters, LLC
Richard Grabowski, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Iaddic Shelters, LLC, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Owner of Iaddic Shelters, LLC, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

IADDIC Shelters LLC has a mission: provide housing for the "houseless." Their product line of affordable, durable dwellings supplies disaster victims and urban renewal projects with a solid-structure housing solution which offers superior privacy and weather protection compared to temporary accommodations such as tents and tarps. The shelters are manufactured from chemically treated foam. They can be collapsed and packaged in vacuum-sealed bags for optimal storage and transportation. Once in the field, they are easily deployed and quickly cure to a sturdy structure.

Situation

IADDIC dwellings are the easiest to erect, longest lasting, overall least expensive dwellings available, however, the path to these accomplishments required significant design and research. In the process of developing a prototype, CEO Rich Grabowski, realized that in order to impact the most people he needed an efficient design that not only kept manufacturing cost low but also provided a quality product. A colleague connected with the Automation and Robotics Research Institute at UT Arlington recommended that he contact the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) for their industry knowledge and experience in product development.

Solution
"Right away we were mutually impressed," said Grabowski. "TMAC was impressed with the scope and humanitarian impact of our mission; I was impressed with their intellectual horsepower." A lean design analysis was conducted in a formal manner whereby the product was deconstructed into its functional requirements and scrutinized for candidate designs and fabrication processes. One of the many ideas generated in this exercise was the possibility of molding the shell in a single piece, rather than assembling it from cut pieces of sheet stock. Following the lean design methodology, this concept was investigated further in the second phase of the project—automation assessment and equipment survey; TMAC identified foam molding equipment manufacturers in the local area to approach, and ultimately establish whether this was a feasible route given the shelter characteristics and dimensions. In time, this sequence of events would result in a completely new direction in producing IADDIC shelters, which has substantially lower complexity and part count needed for high-volume production. In the final stage, a conceptual factory layout was delivered outlining equipment configuration and workflow in order to optimize production.

Results
The design analysis achieved bottom-line results. Now, higher quality dwellings are able to be made faster and cheaper.

- Production time went from days to hours
- 30% reduction in material and labor cost
- Estimated savings of $400K in unnecessary investment

"TMAC did a phenomenal job," Grabowski said. "The contributions they made to our product design and business were not just evolutionary but revolutionary. This is going to allow us to do what we want to do; provide a quality dwelling at an affordable price."

County: Dallas
Industry: Building/Construction **www.iaddicshelters.com**
NAICS: 624221-shelters
TMAC Services Provided: Lean Product Design
Who to contact: Richard Grabowski, 214-243-6518

Iaddic Shelters, LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and row the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the D.E.B.
Richard M. Mohring, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer, Millennium Cell Inc.
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Millennium Cell, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Chief Technology Officer of Millennium Cell, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

NJMEP recently completed a project for Millennium Cell whereby they mapped out process for manufacturing the catalyst agent and then its subsequent packing into reactors for our energy storage and delivery technology. The mapping process will has enabled the team (Advent Design and Millennium Cell) to determine quality control points and critical process control points, the first step in improving the manufacturing process. This mapping process also suggested appropriate quality cheekpoints and generated a conceptual system that could easily be semi-automated – the next logical development step. We expect that these improvements to our catalyst manufacturing processes will prove to be critical as we continue to develop our energy technologies for both the US Department of Defense and for commercial applications.

Millennium Cell believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Very truly yours,

Richard M. Mohring, Ph.D.

Avionic Instruments LLC.
Aerospace for Industry™
FAA Repair Station No. V5AR787J

Testimony of the Avionic Instruments Inc
Rigo Cruz, Director of Engineering & Quality
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Avionic Instruments LLC**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Director of Engineering & Quality** of **Avionic Instruments LLC**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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"NJMEP did a series of training including Lean Manufacturing. One of the more important effects of the Lean Training is that it has provided Avionic Instruments with a vehicle for change, while helping us to secure the jobs of all employees of the company. After being acquired by TRANSDIGM, it was imperative to become an efficient company with room for growth. NJMEP training has helped us to steer the company in the right direction and has empowered our employees to participate in and drive positive change."

Avionic Instruments LLC believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,
Rigo Cruz

Director Of Engineering & Quality
Avionic Instruments LLC
1414 Randolph Ave
Avenel, NJ 07001
rcruz@avionicinstruments.com
Phone: 732-781-1053
Mobile: 732-770-8700

1414 Randolph Avenue P.O. Box 498 Avenel New Jersey 07001 T 732 388•3500 F 732 382•4996

Testimony of Defiance Metal Products
Rob Thomas, General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Defiance Metal Products to submit testimony for the record. As General Manager for Defiance Metal Products, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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AMS has assisted our company with Lean Manufacturing Training and Implementation over the past years. The results include over $2 million in increased sales, $400 thousand in retained sales, over $250 thousand in inventory, material and labor savings, over $1.5 million in increased investment in plant equipment, IT systems and workforce development, and retention/creation of over 25 jobs.

Defiance Metal Products believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Regards,

Rob Thomas
General Manager-DMP Southern Divisions
501-362-1919 Ex 5215
501-206-6880

Testimony of National Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Bob Staudinger, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **National Manufacturing Co., Inc.** I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **National Manufacturing Co., Inc**. I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP's network of 59 centers, in over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, provide technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. MEP clients report over $1.1 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.7 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain over 52,000 jobs and increase investment of $1.7 billion back into our economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact throughout the United States, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

The New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program has assisted National Manufacturing in implementing Lean Manufacturing principles and concepts. As a result of their assistance we have increased our capacity, improved productivity, broadened our employees skill sets and reduced our operating costs. Without the assistance and expertise of the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, these changes would have not been achieved successfully in the period they were accomplished.

National Manufacturing Co., Inc. sells to customers around the world and we need to continuously improve in order to compete in the global economy. I have personally traveled to customers and competitors around the world, including China, and believe that the MEP program is a critical program that can assist manufacturing companies remain competitive and viable into the future.

National Manufacturing Co., Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Staudinger
President

Testimony of Heyco Products
Robert Weiss, VP of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Heyco Products**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **VP of Operations** of **Heyco Products**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP helped us evaluate and improve the efficiency and flow of our product through the plant. This lean approach will reduce our production costs and improve our on time delivery, improving our global competitiveness. This was a worthwhile investment for our company.

Heyco Products believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Artcraft Bedspread, International
Rod Pena, CEO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Artcraft Bedspread, International, located in Commerce California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Artcraft Bedspread, International to submit testimony for the record. As CEOof Artcraft Bedspread, International, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Speaking specifically of the work Artcraft Bedspread, International did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Artcraft Bedspread, International believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Injen Technology Ltd.
Roger Tibbetts, Vice President

To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Injen Technology Ltd., located in Pomona California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Injen Technology Ltd. to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of Injen Technology Ltd., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Sincerely,

Roger L. Tibbetts
Vice President / G. M.
909-839-0706 ext. 207

Testimony of D.E.B. Manufacturing Inc.
Ronald Lyons, Operations Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **D.E.B. Manufacturing, Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Operations Manager** of **D.E.B. Manufacturing**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company recently completed a QuickView Assessment conducted by the NJMEP. The NJMEP Quickview provided us with a Best Practices benchmark and we were able to compare our performance with that of our peers – an interesting and valuable exercise. As a result of the assessment we are prioritizing those areas where needs for improvement are indicated and are moving ahead to deal positively with those issues. At this writing we are completing implementation of the AS9100 Quality Standard - which is required by our areospace customers and which will allow us to remain a qualified supplier to this market segment. A total of 9 manufacturing positions have been preserved as a direct result of this NJMEP-provided training.

D.E.B. Manufacturing believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of D.E.B. Manufacturing Inc.
Ronald Lyons, Operations Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **D.E.B. Manufacturing, Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Operations Manager** of **D.E.B. Manufacturing**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Testimony of RKL Technologies
Roy Hornstein, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of RKL Technologies, located in Corona California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing RKL Technologies to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof RKL Technologies, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work RKL Technologies did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

RKL Technologies believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Techflex Inc.
Bill Dermody IV, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Techflex Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of **Techflex Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Techflex manufactures flexible, high performance wire, hose and cable protection. I have found the MEP services to be an integral part of my problem solving resources. Techflex has engaged NJMEP for several projects throughout our company over the past years and have found them to be reliable, professional and able to deliver effective service that has made appreciable contributions to our growth and development. Most recently, NJMEP introduced their R&D Tax Credit Program, enabling us to recover substantial R&D tax credits on both the Federal and State levels. This would not have been possible without their guidance. We strongly recommend that NJMEP programs remain properly funded and given the opportunity to grow. Through their efforts our small New Jersey company has additional tools to compete in the ever difficult global economy.

Techflex Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of M. Chasen & Son, Inc.
David Schachman, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **M. Chasen & Son, Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of M. Chasen & Son, Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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M. Chasen & Son, Inc. recycles scrap textile materials and then utilizes those materials in our manufacturing of products for the bedding and furniture industries. I would like to thank the NJMEP for networking other small manufacturers with us to improve our local supplier and customer base. This is just one of the many services that the MEP program provides at no cost to small manufactures.

M. Chasen & Son, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of RHM Technology, Inc.
Jessica Race, Chief Executive Officer
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **RHM Technology, Inc.** , I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Chief Executive Officer** of the **RHM Technology, Inc.** , I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commeree, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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RHM Technology, Inc. is a contract manufacturer, designer and repairer of communication equipment. We have utilized NJMEP's services in determining the gap between our quality systems and ISO certification. We are now beginning training for ISO through a resource provided by the MEP.

RHM Technology, Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Biomet Fair Lawn L.P.
Eddy Bergeron, Vice President of Manufacturing
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Biomet Fair Lawn**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President of Manufacturing** of **Biomet Fair Lawn**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Biomet manufactures orthopedic appliances likes Implants, Orthopedic Medical Instruments and Devices. We would like to thank the NJMEP. The Quickview Assessment provides our Fair Lawn, New Jersey facility with a good bench-marking tool as we move forward as a company. The MEP program is essential in helping small manufactures stay in New Jersey and be more profitable

Biomet Fair Lawn believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Fims Manufacturing Corp
Michael Facchini, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Fims Manufacturing Corp**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Fims Manufacturing Corp**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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FIMS provides precision quick change Lathe Tooling for our customers. Our company has worked with the NJ MEP on several projects and have found their services invaluable in solving our problems for a variety of projects. FIMS was able to retain 6 employees because of them. The NJ MEP program is truly a valuable source for the mid-sized manufacturer.

Fims Manufacturing Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the H K MetalCraft Manufacturing Corp.
Raymond Hopp, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **H K MetalCraft Manufacturing Corp.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **H K MetalCraft Manufacturing Corp.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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HK MetalCraft manufactures precision Washers, Gaskets and Stampings. We recently completed Project Management and Implementation of Lean Manufacturing with the NJMEP. This training provided HK Metalcraft with focused attention on becoming Lean in areas that were uncovered upon earlier training with the MEP such as in the Press Room and Tool Room. We can now sustain these improvements because of the NJMEP and expand them to other areas of our business.

H K MetalCraft Manufacturing Corp. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology that is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Drive-Master
Peter Ruprecht, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Drive-Master**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **Drive-Master**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community. MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Drive-Master provides automobile and van conversions that provides mobility for the physically challenged. Since the training our employees have been extremely excited and motivated. We now have weekly Lean meeting and also practice 5S in other areas of Drive-Master. We are very happy with the training and especially the results thanks to NJMEP.

Drive Master believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Glatt Air Techniques Inc.
Dick Davis, Vice President of Finance
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Glatt Air Techniques Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President of Finance** of the **Glatt Air Techniques Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Glatt Air Techniques supplies fluid bed processing equipment for the Pharmaceutical Industry. NJMEP's Quickview Assessment was accurate in its results and has been helpful. NJMEP has also given us important insight on R&D Tax Credits.

Glatt Air Techniques Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers may lose more than the cost of the program. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a useful program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Pyrometer Instrument Co. Inc
Judd Parish, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Pyrometer Instrument Co. Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of the **Pyrometer Instrument Co. Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP has been very helpful to Pyrometer. They have given us valuable insight with the ISO process and were instrumental in Pyrometer obtaining a state grant. We look forward to continuing to work with NJMEP on other projects, as well. This program is needed for the mid-sized manufacturer.

Pyrometer Instrument Co. Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Orycon Control Technology Inc.
Sal Benenati, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Orycon Control Technology Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **Orycon Control Technology Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company needed to register to ISO 9001 in order to retain existing customers and allow us to compete in Europe. In order to secure this specialized training, we turned to NJMEP for assistance. With their help. We implemented the ISO progran and attained registration in 2007. Thanks to the NJMEP, we were able to train our personnel, improve our quality standards and register for ISO 9001:2000. This is making it possible to expand our marketing horizons to include customers that otherwise would not have considered us to be a serious and reliable suppliers. The assistance of NJMEP is greatly appreciated.

Orycon Control Technology Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology that is a catalyst for innovation, without it we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy as well as in the local one. Discontinuing the program would be another nail in the coffin of America's manufacturing base, which nowadays is made up of smaller companies, since most of the larger manufacturing concerns have already left for greener pastures overseas. In today's almost brutally competitive environment, MEP has been a breath of fresh air and have helped us integrate into a system that seems designed to exclude the little guy.

Testimony of Spectrachem
Zachary Kousoulis, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Spectrachem**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **Spectrachem**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Spectrachem manufactures textile printing inks and chemical specialties. I have found the NJ MEP to be very helpful with our company's website upgrade. It has generated leads for us that we wouldn't have gotten in the past.

Spectrachem believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of GAR Products
Sam Garfunkle, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Gar Products**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President** of **Gar Products**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company completed a Lean Opportunity Assessment conducted by NJMEP. The assessment pinpointed areas in our production process where improvements in productivity could potentially lead to improvemnts in production rate. In particular, the assessment inicated where very significant inventory reductions could be made - reductions which are crucial to our company's continued profitability. Based on the assessment, NJMEP produced a Scope of Work, and we are ready to begin a Lean Transformation of our company.

Gar Products believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sam Garfunkle
VP of Operations
GAR Products
732-364-2100 ext111

Testimony of L.E.S. Consulting
Linn Schueck, President / Principle Consultant
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of L.E.S. Consulting, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President & Principle Consultant of L.E.S. Consulting, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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With the ever increasing amount of jobs going outside of the US and the recent jobless rate going higher, it is critical to preserve manufacturing jobs in our country. NJMEP plays a critical partner role in that process in a number of ways. I have found in being a lean manufacturing resource for NJMEP that NJMEP:

- Shows manufacturing companies that status quo can be competitively fatal. Continuous improvement has to be promoted and become the lifestyle of each organization.
- Encourages companies to optimize the skills, involvement, and brainpower of all employees through the concept of lean manufacturing.
- Drives down employer costs thru the training it gives in recognizing waste and increasing throughputs.
- Not only trains management and work forces in lean "world class best practices", it also facilitates and leads employees in implementation of these concepts.
- Teaches companies how to continue on their own, after NJMEP has left the scene, to stand up and continue to reduce costs, improve throughputs, increase volumes, and grow the business.

What I have found to be true in my work as a resource with NJMEP is unfortunately that many manufacturers going in are stuck in a rut of "that's the way it has always been done and should be done". Others want to change and don't know how to accomplish it. They see the need

but can't see the path. NJMEP, through its training and implementation of lean manufacturing principles, motivates companies and leads them in the right direction of continuous improvement and self reliance. Those companies, with which I have worked under NJMEP guidance, have made critical improvements that are significant and ongoing.

L.E.S. Consulting believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Container Technology
Sean Clancy, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Container Technology, located in Goleta CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Container Technology to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof Container Technology, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Container Technology did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Container Technology believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Southern Californian Biofuel
Scott Brown, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Southern Californian Biofuel, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Southern Californian Biofuel to submit testimony for the record. As President of the Southern Californian Biofuel, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Southern Californian Biofuel. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Southern Californian Biofuel believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Perma Pure LLC
Scott Rush, Vice President of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Perma Pure LLC, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of Operations for Perma Pure, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company completed both a QuickView Assessment and a Lean Opportunity Assessment conducted by NJMEP. Our executive board also attended a Lean Worshop at NJMEP and, as a result, we are currently implementing a Lean Transformation within our facility. Implementing change in a failing business is relatively easy. Our company has a distinguished track record of growth and success yet the "Lean Opportunity Assessment" was able to pinpoint several critical areas for improvement. The improvements we anticipate making with NJMEP's assistance are a key element of our aggressive 5-year growth plan.

Perma Pure believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Rush
Vice-President, Operations
Perma Pure LLC

Testimony of the Accurate Screw Machine Co. Inc
Scott Solomon, V. P. & General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Accurate Screw Machine Co. Inc**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As V.P. and **General Manager** of the **Accurate Screw Machine Co. Inc**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The NJMEP Program always has us looking for more ways to become more competitive and profitable. Developing our technical employees has helped to improve our company's competitiveness and profitability. Improved manufacturing techniques have improved our ability to compete with other firms in our industry. Projects completed with NJMEP have lead to five new jobs created.

Accurate Screw Machine Co. Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Thank you and best regards,

Scott W. Solomon
VP & GM Accurate Screw Machine

ASM
ACCURATE SCREW MACHINE
a Division of MW Industries, Inc.

Testimony of E-World Recyclers
Sheree Tweddell, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of E-World Recyclers, located in Vista California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing E-World Recyclers to submit testimony for the record. As Vice Presidentof E-World Recyclers, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work E-World Recyclers did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

E-World Recyclers believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Thank You,

Sincerely

Sheree Tweddell

Testimony of the Ferro Corporation
Sherry Schuster, HR
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Ferro Corporation**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Personnel Assistant** of the **Ferro Corporation**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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It was a pleasure working with NJMEP. They brought fresh ideas to the business.

Ferro Corporation believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Good afternoon, Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and members of the committee. My name is David Logsdon, and I am the Executive Director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Space Enterprise Council. The Space Enterprise Council represents all aspects of the aerospace industry and is comprised of thirty companies. The Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation, representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region. I am here today to lend support for NASA's FY2009 budget request of $17.614 billion.

Introduction

As you may know, the Space Enterprise Council is a founding member of the Coalition for Space Exploration. The Coalition for Space Exploration is a collaboration of space industry businesses and advocacy groups whose mission is to educate and inform the public on the value and benefits of space exploration and to help ensure the United States will remain a leader in space, science and technology - key factors that will benefit every American, strengthen our nation's economy, and maintain our national security.

Human space exploration drives discovery. It is vital to gaining essential knowledge about our home planet, its environment, and ourselves. Our world leadership and economic security are being globally challenged while our way of life is impacting the known natural resources of our planet. Research conducted in space provides critical information to help us win these battles for our country for the sake of future generations.

High-Technology Competitiveness

Current trends are showing that in the not too distant future, several countries will surpass the United States in technological superiority. In particular, India, China, and Japan will soon employ more scientists and engineers. The U.S. thus stands at a critical juncture in confronting its future in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), which make up the backbone of the U.S. high-technology workforce.

The U.S. civil space program is also at a critical juncture. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has an aging workforce, and serious doubts about NASA's ability to fulfill its space exploration agenda abound. Facing these trends and dilemmas, the United States must reflect upon how the predicted downturn in the U.S. high-technology workforce will affect the nation's plans for space exploration in the twenty-first century.

In its 2001 report, *Road Map for National Security: Imperative for Change*, the United States Commission on National Security in the Twenty-first Century made a bold assessment of the importance of the high-technology workforce to America security. The commission stated, "the harsh fact is that the U.S. need for the highest quality capital in science, mathematics and engineering is not being met...Second only to a weapon of mass destruction detonating in an American city, we can think of nothing more dangerous than a failure to manage properly

science, technology, and education for the common good over the next century." The commission's alarming comments aptly voiced the concerns of policy-makers and academics who realized that the health of the high-tech workforce is critical to U.S. national and economic security.

Four years later, the National Academy of Sciences held a similar position. In their 2005 report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, the academy stated that the United States' "vitality is derived in large part from the productivity of well-trained people and the steady stream of scientific and technical innovations they produce." The academy went on to state that "without high-quality, knowledge-intensive jobs and the innovative enterprises that lead to discovery and new technology, our economy will suffer and our people will face a lower standard of living."

Since the turn of the twenty-first century, policy makers and pundits alike have opined the importance of the STEM workforce to U.S. national and economic security. Now the members of this committee have the opportunity to fully support an agency that for years has been the bellwether for inspiring the nation's youth, NASA.

High Technology Competitiveness and the Second Space Race

Both the United States' Apollo program and the last major restructuring of the U.S. education system occurred because of one defining event in world history- the 1958 launch of the Soviet Sputnik satellite. That same year, the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) was passed, providing aid to education at all levels, public and private. Shortly thereafter, NASA was established. The NDEA was instituted primarily to stimulate the advancement of education in science and mathematics. By the time President Dwight D. Eisenhower made his State of the Union Address on 12 January, 1961, the NDEA was being hailed as a "milestone in the history of American education."

In the same address, Eisenhower spoke proudly about U.S. advances in the field of science and technology, specifically focusing on the "startling strides that have been made by NASA." Eisenhower stated that in a little more than two years, NASA had successfully launched both meteorological and communications satellites, as well as a few deep space probes. Eisenhower promised even greater accomplishments to come: "The near future will hold such wonders as the orbital flight of an astronaut, the landing of instruments on the moon, the launching of the powerful giant Saturn rocket vehicles, and the reconnaissance of Mars and Venus by unmanned vehicles." 1961 was a landmark year for space rhetoric for in May of that year, President Kennedy made his prophetic statement that nation would set the goal of landing a manned flight on the moon by the end of the decade. The lunar landing decision initiated the largest single use of technological means to achieve a significant foreign policy goal in American history. The administration's decision turned into our Apollo program which, in turn, inspired countless Americans to study the STEM disciplines, helping catapult the U.S. in the position of the global high-tech leader.

On January 14, 2004, President Bush unveiled the new Vision for U.S. Space Exploration. The vision directed NASA to finish its current space shuttle and international space station programs, return humans to the moon, and later send them onto Mars and points beyond. In his essay "Space Exploration: The Power of the Vision," astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson eloquently states the primary reason why he thinks that the Vision for Space Exploration will be a successful tool to help recruit the next generation of scientists and engineers.

> I'm an educator. When I stand in front of students, it is totally demoralizing if I say, "Become an aerospace engineer so you can build an airplane that's 20 percent more fuel efficient than the one your parents flew." Of course that has no hope of exciting them. But if I say, "Become an aerospace engineer so you can design the first piloted craft in the rarefied atmosphere of the planet Mars," the effect is totally different. "Become a biologist and help us look for life in the subsurface soils on Mars, or beneath the ice sheets on Europa, or elsewhere in the solar system. Become a chemist because we need to understand better the chemistry of the Saturnian atmosphere." When you put that vision out there, it makes my job as an educator easy. With that kind of vision, all I have to do is point my students toward it, flames of ambition get lit, and a new generation of innovators rises up.

DeGrasse Tyson's work speaks volumes about the power and potential of the vision as a mechanism to inspire the next generation of STEM students to pursue careers in the aerospace industry.

This brings us to present day. As of this hearing, no less than four countries and one prominent U.S. company have made extensive plans to travel to the moon.

China

In the human spaceflight arena, China has also made stunning achievements. In 1999-2002, four unpiloted spaceships were launched by China, followed in October 2003, by its first piloted mission, Shenzhou 5. According to Luo Ge, Vice Administrator, China National Space Administration, "that was a historic breakthrough for China."

In October 2005, a two-person spacecraft rocketed into Earth orbit, achieving the first attended space lab tests.

Based on success in the manned mission area, China intends to establish an orbiting space lab by 2015. Leading up to this effort, space walking skills by Chinese astronauts are to be honed, as will be the ability of space docking.

China has drafted a multi-step program for lunar exploration.

In October 2007, China's first lunar orbiter/fly mission set off for the moon. By 2012, China space planners will be landing a rover on the Moon surface. In 2017, China's lunar exploration plans call for robotic lunar sample return missions.

In the future, China will also consider the possibility of a manned mission to the Moon.

Russia

Russia plans to send a manned mission to the Moon by 2025 and wants to build a permanent base there shortly after, according to Anatoly Perminov, the head of Russian space agency Roskosmos. Anatoly has stated publically that, "according to our estimates we will be ready for a manned flight to the Moon in 2025. An 'inhabited station' could be built there between 2027 and 2032."

Japan

In September 2007, Japan moved a step closer to sending someone to the moon by successfully launching the biggest lunar mission since the U.S. Apollo flights.

The Selenological and Engineering Explorer probe left its launch pad on Tanegashima island, 600 miles south-west of Tokyo, aboard an H-2A solid-fuel rocket. A live internet broadcast showed the rocket as it headed out over the Pacific before separating from the lunar explorer over Chile about 45 minutes later. The mission was a major step towards the goal of building a manned station on the moon by 2025, and a sign of renewed regional interest in lunar exploration.

India

India has announced that it plans to explore the Moon and will send an unmanned probe there by 2008. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) calls the Moon flight project *Chandrayan Pratham,* which has been translated as *First Journey to the Moon* or *Moonshot One.* The 1,157-lb. Chandrayan-1 would be launched in 2008 on one of India's own Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) space rockets.

Google

In 2007, the X PRIZE Foundation and Google, Inc. announced the first ten teams to register for the Google Lunar X PRIZE, a robotic race to the Moon to win a remarkable $30 million in prizes. This international group of teams will compete to land a privately funded robotic craft on the Moon that is capable of roaming the lunar surface for at least 500 meters and sending video, images and data back to the Earth. Teams have until 2012 to accomplish the feat.

A second space race has begun, one that differs from the space race of the 1960's. The second space race has both national and economic security ramifications. Countries now realize that having a competitive space program not only promotes national prestige but also the trickle down economic benefits that can be derived from the program. Consider the following: For the past 40 years, NASA scientists and engineers helped create new industries and transferred more than 1,500 NASA-developed technologies to the private sector. Nearly every U.S. industry has

benefited from NASA discoveries, especially key industrial sectors such as transportation, public safety and health and medicine. Clearly, Americans have gotten a huge return on their modest investment in our space program. It has vindicated those who bravely and painstakingly pursued a vision that skeptics once called unaffordable, foolhardy and wasteful.

Conclusion

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss this serious issue. The Chamber and its Space Enterprise Council stand ready to work with Congress to ensure that we have a civil space program that balances all of the nation's civil space priorities while continuing to put an emphasis on space exploration.

In summary, the Space Enterprise Council believes that the 2004 White House directive on national space exploration is the fundamental bedrock from which our country can move forward in exploring the cosmos. A balanced approach, which focuses on both human and robotic space exploration and healthy earth and space science programs, will help us retain what is considered one of the crown jewels of America, NASA and the civil space program. The competition is utilizing their civil space programs to recruit multitudes of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians; our high technology competitiveness is at stake, and the time is now to ensure that NASA has the full backing of the Congress and the administration.

The Chamber and its Space Enterprise Council stand ready to take action on behalf of the business community to ensure that we have a civil space program that will help regenerate our global high-technology leadership.

Testimony of the Superseal Manufacturing NJ
Slawomir Zukowski, Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Superseal Manufacturing NJ**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Manager** of the **Superseal Manufacturing NJ**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community. MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

NJMEP has provided us training on Lean Manufacturing, Data Analisys, Problem Solving and other soft skills. As a result, we upgrade our employee skills and made our company more competitive. It helped us to implement management techniques that were impossible to implement or even see before we went through the training and consultation with NJMEP employees and consultants. We got involved in User Conference that allow us share results and solutions throughout many companies involved with NJMP. We have seen good results that happen in many New Jersey companies involved in Lean Manufacturing. In current recession in housing that we are a part of, as a window manufacturer, we could not do it without government funding. In my 8 years with the company, I see that we are struggling to stay competitive in the market. You can't open any industry publication without seeing headlines about overseas companies taking our share of the market. I have seen other employers in the area close their doors and I hear horror stories from my software vendors and consultants. We are struggling, we cut down our size, but still became one of biggest employers in the area, that provides people with the way to make ends meet, or even make living, and provide health insurance. But we start to feel like last of the Mohicans. So please very much, if you are a patriot and a person, provide us with a little bit of help, that is granted to overseas companies by their goverments, being it in Europe or Asia. Let's level the playing field a little bit so we have a fighting chance to preserve our way of life.Superseal Manufacturing NJ believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Slawomir Zukowski
MIS Director
Superseal Mfg, Inc.
tel. 908-561-5910 x3021
fax 908-756-9126
mailto:slawekz@supersealwindows.com

Testimony of Arlington Machine & Tool Company
John J. Staudinger, COO
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Arlington Machine & Tool Company**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **COO** of the **Arlington Machine & Tool Company**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

Through NJMEP's Lean Training program we were able to increase our output by 70% with only a 20% increase in manpower. We also need to thank the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the grant we received from them to help pay for the training.

Arlington Machine & Tool Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

WE NEED the MEP and any other help that we can as a manufacturer, because we have LOST MILLIONS of Dollars and 50 jobs that have gone to CHINA in the last 7 years. PLEASE HELP APPROVE THIS in the BUDGET!

Sincerely,

John J Staudinger
jstaudinger@arlingtomnmachine.com
COO
Arlington Machine & Tool Co
90 New Dutch Lane
Fairfield, NJ 07004
973-276-1377

Testimony of Paratech,Inc
Steve Park, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Paratech,Inc, located in Paramount California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Paratech,Inc to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof Paratech,Inc, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Paratech,Inc did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Paratech,Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Very truly yours
Paratech, Inc.
Steven F. Park
President

Testimony of American Stitchco Inc.

Stephen W. Luelf, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP),I would like to thank the Committee for allowing American Stitchco Inc. submit testimony for the record. As President and CEO of the American Stitchco Inc., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our personal experience with the program through Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions a division of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority has been extremely helpful. As a company in the 150 to 180 employee range, we need all the help we can get to be competitive in the world market. The program has helped us install and hone lean manufacturing, which has made us more efficient, professional and competitive. We have been able to compete with Mexico and win back for the USA three significant projects which had been sourced in Mexico. We were also able to win Toyota Canada tire cover business and do work for Chrysler, Honda, Mazda, Nissan and others which is shipped to Canada and other countries. Besides the implementation of lean manufacturing, the program has educated our employees in lean manufacturing so that our team can continue implementation and improvement on our own. This help and support has been very important to us. The expertise available through the program comes with a sincere interest by the provider, who has become an important part of our team. We have had continual growth during our 25 years of

business and, with the program's help, we hope to continue to grow and be even more competitive. Our jobs are valued in our community.

American Stitchco Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Electro Lift Inc.
Steven Pilione Vice President Sales,
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Electro Lift Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As the **Vice President** of **Electro Lift Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

NJMEP has helped us improve our efficiency and reduce product costs utilizing Lean Manufacturing techniques. With their assistance we have developed new market strategies and generated double digit growth. We are currently working with NJMEP to further our continuous improvement efforts and stay competitive in the marketplace

Electro Lift Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Lamatek
Steve Tice, Plant Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Lamatek**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Plant Manager** of **Lamatek**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP completed a free assessment which highlighted the areas in our company which needed to be addressed. We then engaged in a Value Stream Mapping project, and as we work through the action plans, we anticipate cost savings of $50,000 and increased sales of $500,000 due to customer satisfaction improvements. The overall benefits to Lamatek were significant. The project has opened our eyes to the waste within our current system.

Lamatek believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Crosby National Swage
Steven Foster, Plant Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing (ORGANIZATION/COMPANY) to submit testimony for the record. As [TITLE] of the [COMPANY], I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our personal experience with the program through Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions a division of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority has been extremely helpful. As a company in the 95 to 110 employee range at this location, we need all the help we can get to be competitive in the world market. The program has helped us install and hone lean manufacturing, which has made us more efficient, professional and competitive. We have been able to compete with foreign competitors and win back business from US customers. We were also able to win business from suppliers into China. Besides the implementation of lean manufacturing, the program has educated our employees in lean manufacturing so that our team can continue implementation and improvement on our own. This help and support has been very important to us. The expertise available through the program comes with a sincere interest by the provider, who has become an important part of our team. We have had continual growth and, with the program's help, we hope to continue to grow and be even more competitive. Our jobs are valued in our community. We are the only US manufacturer of several products and we need all the possible help to remain in business.

Crosby National Swage believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the A D M Corporation
Susan Mota, Vice President of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **A D M Corporation**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President of Operations** of the **A D M Corporation**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The supervisory training along with the Lean effort with NJMEP allowed us to create 3 jobs, retain $200K in sales, reduce manufacturing costs and invest in workforce development. In addition, we see more employee involvement which enabled us to solve problems and prevent them, and employee understanding of how what they do relates to the company as a whole. The training performed by NJMEP has enables us to become more competitive in dealing with our foreign competitors.

We at **A D M Corporation** strongly believe that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Susan Mota

Susan Mota
VP of Operations
ADM Corporation
Middlesex, NJ 08846

Testimony of the Themaquatic
Ted Patience, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Themaquatic, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Themaquatic to submit testimony for the record. As President of the Themaquatic, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Themaquatic. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Themaquatic believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Greener Corp
Ted Wojtech, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Greener Corp, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As President of Greener Corp, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company has recently completed a Lean Transformation conducted by the NJMEP. As a result of this nearly two-year journey, our revenue is up 22%, customer delivery time for crimper products are about half of what it was, and there are fewer machines, along with some newer machines. There is more space within the same building. Also, our employees received 8 ½ % of their salaries as profit sharing each of the last two years. Our relationship with NJMEP has contributed significantly to our revenue growth and productivity improvements. We are a stronger, more profitable company, and we feel that the continued assistance provided by the MEP will enhance our prospects for future growth.

Greener Corp believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,
Theodore M. Wojtech
President
Greener Corp.

Testimony of the Sea Box Inc.
Terry Brennan, Vice President-Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **Sea Box Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Vice President-Operations** of the **Sea Box Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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We promised several of our customers that we would be ISO registered by August of 2007. After beginnig the process, we realized how much help we really needed. NJMEP and Rick from Prism have been a big help in keeping us focused and moving us along toward registration

Sea Box Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Electro-Mech Components, Inc.
Terry Trumbull, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Electro-Mech Components, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Electro-Mech Components to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of Electro-Mech Components, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work of CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, has done with Electro-Mech Components: We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay more competitive in our industry.

Electro-Mech Components believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

To whom it may concern,

Testimony of Danfoss Hago Inc.
Richard Thiel, VP of Operations
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Danfoss Hago Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As VP of Operations of Danfoss Hago, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Our company has started and continues to implement several elements of Lean Manufacturing as implemented by NJMEP. We have experienced positive results in multiple areas and have reaped the benefits, both tangible and intangible. As a result of this NJMEP implementation, we have saved over $400,000 and retained 43 positions and created 14 new positions. Moving forward, we continue to rely on NJMEP's expertise.

Danfoss Hago believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Best Regards,

Richard Thiel
Danfoss Hago
1120 Globe Avenue

Testimony of the Oticon Inc
Tom Falvey, Vice President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Oticon Inc, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President of the Oticon Inc, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Having first hand experience with the NJMEP has reinforced the value this organization provides to the small manufacturer's who would otherwise be struggling to remain competitive. Using the Process improvements and training techniques provided by NJMEP has helped to streamline processes, improve quality and productivity enabling the company to create 60 new jobs.

Oticon Inc believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Falvey
VP Operations
Oticon Inc.
29 Schoolhouse Rd.
Somerset, NJ 08873

Testimony of INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC.
Timothy M. Dromboski, Principal
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of IMS, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Principal of the company, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program (NJMEP) has successfully provided expert guidance to local manufacturing companies and develops programs that benefit the Quality, Delivery, and Cost performance of New Jersey businesses. Their efforts include training and educational programs that combine a unique blend of classroom training with hands-on implementation guidance. This expertise is essential to developing human capabilities and process technologies that are critical to the success of U.S. manufacturing. Amidst the crisis that includes ever increasing global competitive pressure combined with increased costs of doing business, the MEP system is a shining example of what the government can do to support economic development and increased operational capabilities for local manufacturers. Please continue this funding.

IMS believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Mesa West International
Tim Walker, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Mesa West International, located in Corona California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Mesa West International to submit testimony for the record. As Owner of Mesa West International, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Mesa West International did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Mesa West International believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Joseff Investment Casting
Tina Joseff, General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Joseff Investment Casting, located in Burbank CA, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Joseff Investment Casting to submit testimony for the record. As General Managerof Joseff Investment Casting, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work Joseff Investment Casting did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

Joseff Investment Casting believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

ZEB Manufacturing, Inc.

1 Charles Street
West Orange, NJ 07052
Phone: (973) 325-3889
Fax: (973) 325-8301
Web: zebmfg.com

March 17, 2008

Testimony from Tom Smith, President/Owner of ZEB Manufacturing, Inc.
To the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of ZEB Manufacturing, Inc., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As owner of **ZEB Manufacturing, Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program (MEP) be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

MEP is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community. MEP has a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 5,000 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.1 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.7 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy, creating a significant multiplier effect. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

NJMEP handled our grant application from the NJ DOL and Workforce Development process for us. The training that they offered touched on so many bases that we will be implementing these concepts for years to come and each will make us much more productive.

We believe that, if this funding is not approved, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. The implementation of knowledge and technology are catalysts for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy. The President often says that small companies are the engines of our growth.

As you know, the US has already lost much of its manufacturing base. Programs like this (MEP) help companies compete in an increasingly tough global environment. We have many programs to retrain our workers once they are unemployed. Let's continue to train our companies to improve so that they can expand and thrive in this new age. These companies will keep their workers and hire even more. We need your support.

Very truly yours,

ZEB Manufacturing, Inc.

Thomas J. Smith
President

Staples – Proudly Made in the USA

"Excellence in Quality and Delivery"

Testimony of the Greenville Tube Company
Amber Parham, Safety Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Greenville Tube Company to submit testimony for the record. As Safety Manager, Greenville Tube Company, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the MEP is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

The assistance provided by Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions through their Technology Transfer Grant Program allowed us to retain 80 jobs that would have been lost. We were able to retain sales over 4 million. We were able to save several contracts and to continue to improve our safety and manufacturing processes. This program is an excellent program that provides a much needed service to manufacturers in Arkansas.

Greenville Tube Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Amber Parham

Amber Parham
Safety/Environmental Manager

GREENVILLE TUBE COMPANY • Stainless Steel Pipe & Tubing
P.O. Box 550 • Clarksville, AR 72830 • (479) 754-6500 • Fax (479) 754-8426
www.greenvilletube.com

SAINT JEAN INDUSTRIES Inc.

Saint Jean Industries, Inc
424 Industrial Park Road
Heber Springs, AR 72543
Telephone: 501-362-9500
Fax: 501-362-9584

To: Tovia Chan
From: Kenny Sanders - Quality Manager
CC: Glenn Carlton - Plant Manager, Anthony Brazil - SEA, Inc.
Date: March 18, 2008
Re: Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Testimony of the Saint Jean Industries
Kenny Sanders, Quality Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS, www.mfgsolutions.org), a program of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (www.asta.arkansas.gov) and an affiliate of the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Saint Jean Industries to submit testimony for the record. As Quality Manager, Saint Jean Industries, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the MEP is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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The assistance provided by Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions through their Technology Transfer Grant Program allowed us to create 1 new job. We were able to increase investment by 40,000. We were able to save several contracts and to continue to improve our safety and manufacturing processes. This program is an excellent program that provides a much needed service to manufacturers in Arkansas.

Saint Jean Industries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Kenny Sanders

File: SJM11

Testimony of the GE Aviation - formerly Smiths Aerospace Actuation Systems Inc.
Thomas Ullrich, Continuous Improvement Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the GE Aviation, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Continuous Improvement Manager of the GE Aviation, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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NJMEP conducted two Value Stream Mapping events in our facility, one focused on a single product assembly cell and one focused on the administrative process of pricing and quoting. The events consisted of a half day of training on Value Stream Mapping, then 2 1/2 days of conducting the VSM event. The events were very enlightening for the production employees, planners and production engineers, as they saw the comparison between the current state and future state maps. The end result of the event is an implementation plan that is nearly completed. We have already noticed a significant increase in throughput in the assembly cell and are looking for similar improvement in administrative functions.

GE Aviation believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Ullrich – Continuous Improvement Manager, GE Aviation
March 14, 2008

Testimony of International Silicone Technologies
Vicky Martinez, Owner
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of International Silicone Technologies, located in Santa Fe Springs California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing International Silicone Technologies to submit testimony for the record. As Ownerof International Silicone Technologies, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work International Silicone Technologies did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

International Silicone Technologies believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of AMAX
Victor Yuan, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of AMAX, located in Monrovia California, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing AMAX to submit testimony for the record. As Presidentof AMAX, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically of the work AMAX did with CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center, we participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses on manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit their work with helping us stay in business.

AMAX believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of Kearfott Guidance & Navigation Corp.
Walter Peters, Vice President & General Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of Kearfott Guidance & Navigation Corp., I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Vice President & General Manager of the Kearfott Guidance & Navigation Corp., I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community. The President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposes to eliminate the program.

Kearfott Guidance and Navigation Corporation (KGN), a New Jersey engineering and manufacturing company for over 70 years, produces state of the art, high technology navigation and pointing systems for both commercial and military applications. These applications have ranged from deep space probes like the Voyager (now traveling beyond our solar system), the Space Shuttle, and the guidance system for the Trident nuclear missile to unmanned air vehicles like the Global Hawk and autonomous undersea vehicles used for oil exploration and deep water mapping.

Over the last two years Kearfott, with the assistance of the New Jersey Department of Labor and the MEP, effected a Lean transformation of the company. The initiative has helped us become more competitive, stabilized our workforce and given impetus to our growth plans. We could not have accomplished our goals in such a productive fashion without the support and assistance provided by the MEP.

Kearfott Guidance & Navigation Corp. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers like us will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need, particularly given the calamity of the U.S. financial sector. It is the implementation of technology that most often provides the catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Catbridge Machinery
222 New Road
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Tel 973 808-0029 Fax 973 808-0076

www.catbridgemachinery.com

April 15, 2008

Testimony of Catbridge Machinery, LLC
William Christman, VP
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Catbridge Machinery**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **VP** of the **Catbridge Machinery**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

I have found NJMEP to be a helpful resource for our company. NJMEP is reliable, professional and able to deliver effective service that has made a respectable contribution to our growth and development here in New Jersey. NJMEP recently introduced their R&D Tax Credits, enabling Catbridge Machinery to recover considerable R&D tax credits. This is very helpful and NJMEP made this possible for us. Catbridge Machinery endorses the NJMEP program. We consider MEP a vital resource to all manufacturers in all states. We insist that NJMEP programs remain in force and that funding remain in tack and if possible be increased

Catbridge Machinery believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Respectful Submitted,

William J. Christman
Vice President
Catbridge Machinery

Testimony of Coining, Inc.
Kenneth Whited, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **Coining, Inc.,** I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **Coining, Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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I have found New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program to be a helpful resource for our company. NJMEP is reliable, professional and able to deliver effective service that has made a respectable contribution to our growth and development here in New Jersey. Coining, Inc. has worked with NJMEP since they introduced their R&D Tax Credit Program, enabling Coining to recover considerable R&D Tax Credits. Coining endorses the NJMEP program. We consider MEP a vital resource to manufacturers. We strongly urge that NJMEP programs remain in force through continued funding and support.

Testimony of the United States Gypsum Company
James Wilson, Plant Manager
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the **United States Gypsum Company**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **Plant Manager** of the **United States Gypsum Company**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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I am very pleased by the results of our NJMEP training program. In recent townhall meetings, surprisingly enough, I got a lot of feedback that the "soft Skills" training was perhaps the most important and useful training in the program. We have been getting a lot more (brilliant) ideas from people from the floor and our implementation team has actively been pursuing them. Doing the organizational development program at the front end of Lean was the right thing to do. We are now in full-swing with Lean and are optimistic of the results

United States Gypsum Company believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of the Halo Industries
Zach Halopoff, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Halo Industries, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing Halo Industries to submit testimony for the record. As President of the Halo Industries, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

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Speaking specifically to the work CMTC, the Southern California MEP Center has done with Halo Industries. We participated in their Small Manufacturers Advantage™ Program receiving a company assessment, recommendations for improvement and continuous improvement tools from CMTC that led us to increased productivity and higher profits. As a small manufacturer we find this to be a unique program unlike any other we've seen that truly focuses manufacturers. In short, our business has been able to make enormous strides by partnering with CMTC and the MEP program. In fact, we credit the work with helping us stay in business.

Halo Industries believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Testimony of West Electronics Inc.
Brad Brainard, President
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of **West Electronics Inc.**, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As **President** of **West Electronics Inc.**, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized $122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over $1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over $6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of $1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

We've been considering pursuit of ISO 9001 registration as a means to increase our marketability. Unfortunately we didn't know how to begin. My thanks to NJMEP for all the research and information regarding ISO. We have been Mil spec compliant for years and were uncertain what we needed to do for ISO and what was important for us as we move into consumer electronics. I look foward to working with NJMEP on the ISO registration.

West Electronics Inc. believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Kyle Prior, Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation
House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Testimony Regarding FY 2009 Appropriations for the Department of Justice,
Tribal Law Enforcement & Justice Programs
March 28, 2008

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to testify on behalf of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation on the budget for the Department of Justice. In FY 2009, as in past years, the President has proposed significant cuts to several grant programs that provide critical funding to tribal law enforcement agencies and justice systems. If enacted, these cuts will cripple tribal justice systems. We respectfully request that you reject these proposed cuts and provide increases in key areas. We would also like to endorse the recommendations made by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in its "views and estimates" letter, which we attach for your reference.

I. Introduction.

Like state and local governments, tribes have justice systems comprised of police, court systems, detention facilities, drug treatment services and other alternatives to detention. For some tribes, these services are provided directly through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) with prosecution and investigation assistance provided by the Department of Justice (DOJ); other tribes provide these services themselves through contracts or compacts with the BIA. Many tribes have also invested in preventative programs, such as youth centers, youth activity programs and drug education, and many receive assistance from DOJ grants for these and other programs. The Department of Justice plays an important role in providing law enforcement in Indian country. In some instances, DOJ has been a partner where BIA has failed. Recent years have seen increased efforts at interagency cooperation between Justice, Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services. In order to make these collaborations a reality, it is essential that DOJ recognize and embrace its role in tribal law enforcement and work to facilitate communication and access. In this regard, we applaud the Department's recent streamlining of its tribal grants policy, but another piece of this equation is dependable funding. We therefore ask the Subcommittee to restore or increase funding for these ongoing tribal grant programs in order to ensure that tribes can continue to work with our federal partners to improve law enforcement and justice services.

The 290,000-acre Duck Valley Reservation is a remote, rural reservation straddling the border of Idaho and Nevada. The nearest population centers, Mountain Home, Idaho and Elko, Nevada, are 100 miles away. A two-lane road runs through the Reservation between these towns, and the road is sometimes closed during storms. We have approximately 1700 tribal members, about 900 of whom live on the Reservation. Like many isolated, rural tribes, our community is relatively poor. We have a 40% unemployment rate. Ninety-five percent of our students are poor enough to qualify for free or reduced lunch.[1] The BIA provides our police and detention services. However, the DOJ has been an important source of funding for us – for example, we have received grants in the past to construct a juvenile detention facility and to encourage enforcement of protection orders. We are also struggling to create and sustain community-based programs for our juvenile offenders.

[1] University of Nevada, Nevada Cooperative Extension, "MAGIC (Making a Group and Individual Commitment): A Program for Entry-Level Juvenile Offenders in Owyhee, Nevada (2000), available at http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/cd/2000/fs0031.pdf, at 2.

II. Juvenile Justice

A critical piece of tribal law enforcement funding is money for juvenile detention facilities and juvenile rehabilitation and treatment programs. The Native American population is younger than the general population;[2] at Duck Valley, nearly 70% of our people are under the age of 34. Native American youth are disproportionately affected by risk factors known to lead to delinquency. They experience much higher rates of violent victimization than non-Native youth.[3] They have lower levels of educational attainment and higher dropout rates.[4] They are also over-represented in the juvenile justice system.[5] They tend to be arrested for less serious offenses, especially alcohol-related offenses.[6] Yet, once in the system, they are more likely to receive the most punitive sanctions.[7]

Tribal governments are trying to counteract these statistics by creating and improving tribal juvenile justice systems, but they face a number of barriers. Many tribes have no place to house juvenile offenders, and are required to shoulder the cost of transportation and bed rental in order to send their youth to another jurisdiction – often far from their communities. In addition, tribes have no ongoing source of funds for non-detention programs for youth. Research on juvenile justice has shown that detention is the most expensive and often the least effective way to deal with young offenders; it should be the last resort. However, without the resources to support alternatives to detention, tribes have few options for addressing juvenile crime.

As it has for the past several years, this Administration has proposed to consolidate child safety and juvenile justice programs within the Department of Justice into a single grant program. This would encompass funding for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Juvenile Delinquency Block Grants, Internet Crimes Against Children, and several other grant programs. This consolidation is merely an effort to mask the President's proposed cut of more than $200 million to these programs. We ask the Subcommittee to reject this cut.

The Budget would also eliminate the set-aside for tribes typically provided by the Tribal Youth Program (TYP) earmark. This program is the only dedicated source of funding for tribal juvenile justice programs. In 2001, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes received a TYP grant to improve juvenile diversion and intervention services through our "MAGIC (Making a Group and Individual Commitment)" program, which teaches first time and non-violent offenders and their parents the skills needed to avoid delinquent behavior. At a minimum, TYP should be funded at no less than the FY 2008 amount of $14.1 million, but we ask the Subcommittee to consider going further. The TYP

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grant program is an annual set-aside for tribes out of Title V Community Prevention Grants under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. We ask that the Subcommittee consider expanding this tribal set-aside to encompass all juvenile justice programs. At current funding levels, this would mean increasing the Tribal Youth Program earmark to $36 million.

III. Detention Facilities in Indian Country

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs recently held a hearing on the dismal state of facilities in Indian country. The Committee estimates that it would take $6 billion to perform the construction and repairs needed to Indian country jails. For the past several years, DOJ funding for the Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands program has ranged from $5-10 million, which is often not enough to cover full construction of even one facility. This year, despite the documented need, the Administration proposes to eliminate this program entirely.

The Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands program has been critical source of funding for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Increasing juvenile crime rates combined with negative experiences with sending children away from the community led us to begin searching for ways to bring a juvenile facility to Duck Valley in the late 1990s. Although we have a BIA-run adult jail in Owyhee, we do not have a facility in which to house juvenile offenders. Delinquent youth are sent by the BIA to a county facility 100 miles away in Elko, where the BIA rents detention beds. However, we have encountered at least two problems with this system. First, the local community is often overwhelmed by its own juvenile justice needs. Often, no beds are available for youth from Duck Valley. Sometimes, we send a young person there, only to receive a call several days later saying the bed is needed and the juvenile has to be sent home. Second, because Elko is run as short-term facility, it is not well equipped to handle tribal offenders who receive longer terms.

The other option available to the BIA is to send youth several states away. Until recently, a BIA-run facility in Peach Springs, Arizona was the only juvenile facility in the area, and our youth were sent there. When your children are sent so far away, it is very difficult to monitor their well-being or be sure they are safe. Parents were not familiar with the Peach Springs facility. They didn't know what type of programs and recreation were available, how closely the youth were monitored, or whether adequate health care was provided. In one instance, a young boy from Duck Valley was beaten up by other juveniles while at Peach Springs. His tooth was knocked out, and his mother was left to find him medical care. Incidents like these caused concern in the community about what was happening to our children in this distant facility. As it turned out, our concerns were well-founded. The Peach Springs facility was closed by the BIA for several years after questions were raised about the adequacy of supervision and whether some youth were bringing contraband into the facility. Fortunately, we received a DOJ grant of almost $4 million to build a 28-bed facility on the Reservation, which was completed in 2004.

While we strongly support the Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands program, we have several recommendations based on our experience that we believe will improve the program:

- Provide no less than $35 million to address the significant facility needs in Indian

country. Without sufficient funding, DOJ has been limited in recent years to providing smaller planning grants, rather than funding construction of new facilities.

- Consider making operational funding available to the Department of Justice in order to ensure that facilities are opened in a timely manner. The newly-constructed juvenile facility at Duck Valley has not yet opened due to the BIA's failure to provide staffing and operations funding, and we would welcome the opportunity to work with DOJ to address this. Alternatively, we ask you to inquire with the BIA about the operational status of juvenile facilities constructed under this program.

- Expand the purpose areas for DOJ construction grants. Although it advocates building multi-purpose facilities and incorporating non-detention programs, especially for juveniles, DOJ cannot provide financial assistance to tribes in their efforts to pursue alternatives to incarceration because funding can only be used for correctional facilities.

IV. Other Tribal Justice Resources

Office of Justice Programs, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance. For FY 2009, the Administration proposes to consolidate state and local law enforcement assistance programs into two flexible grant programs – Byrne Public Safety and Protection grants and a violent crime reduction partnership initiative – each funded at $200 million. However, this reorganization of the OJP budget camouflages an overall decrease of more than $500 million for all the programs included in this category. It would also eliminate any specific set-aside for tribes. We are greatly concerned that, without this set-aside, tribal programs will lose funding because they are forced to compete with all other programs. Furthermore, it is not clear whether tribes would be eligible for these grants at all. We request that Subcommittee reject any decreases and, specifically, we ask that tribal justice programs be funded at least at FY 2008 levels, including no less than $9 million for Tribal Courts and no less than $5 million for the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Demonstration Program.

Indian Country COPS. The Administration proposes to completely eliminate funding for hiring, training and equipment grants under the Indian Country COPS program. Today, there are 1.3 law enforcement officers per 1,000 citizens in Indian county, compared to 2.9 law enforcement officers per 1,000 citizens in non-Indian communities. It is estimated that more than 2000 additional officers are required across Indian country just to meet minimum safety standards. Police officers working on reservations frequently have to patrol alone because of personnel shortages. Attracting and retaining adequate law enforcement staff has always been an issue at Duck Valley. We have only 3 police officers, including the Chief of Police. Since 1999, the COPS program has provided essential public safety services in Indian County and has assisted tribes in increasing the number of law enforcement officers. We ask the Subcommittee to restore $35 million for Tribal COPS.

Office of Violence Against Women. The most recent VAWA reauthorization provides that 10% of all appropriated funds be set aside for Indian tribes. These programs are of critical importance in Indian country, where the rates of domestic violence are extremely high. As Congress found, Indian women are battered at a rate of 23.2 per 1,000 (compared with 8 per 1,000 among

Caucasian women). Rape is also far too common – 1 out of every 3 American Indian and Alaska Native women are raped in their lifetimes. Unfortunately, these programs have never been funded up to authorized levels. For FY 2009, the Administration proposes an overall decrease of $120 million and elimination of specific tribal programs. We ask the Subcommittee to restore funding for VAWA programs at least to FY 2008 levels.

Office of the United States Attorney. According to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, funding for federal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country has steadily decreased over the past several years, with the result that United States attorneys declined to prosecute 62% of Reservation criminal cases between 2004 and 2007. With funding shortages, the part-time hours of many Indian country Assistant United States Attorneys make effective law enforcement on our Reservations difficult. At Duck Valley, one of our greatest needs is for additional prosecution and investigation assistance from the AUSA. We ask the Subcommittee to increase funding for local AUSAs with responsibilities for Indian country law enforcement to an amount sufficient to support at least one full-time position.

Direct Tribal Funding. Tribes are not directly eligible for funding under several of the major funding streams upon which states depend for law enforcement resources, including Byrne formula grants, local law enforcement block grants, juvenile justice formula grants under Title II of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, and Juvenile Accountability Block Grants. As a consequence, tribes must apply through states for pass-through funding, giving states a free hand over the distribution of funds and the conditions imposed on the grants. This arrangement – treating tribes as subordinate to state policy – flies in the face of the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government. It also has practical consequences. Some states impose onerous requirements, such as escalating match rules, waivers of sovereign immunity, or consent to state court jurisdiction, before entering into agreements with tribes. Other states simply overlook tribes. We are lucky because the State of Idaho has generally reached out to tribes and cooperated in the area of juvenile justice. However, being on the border of two states, we can attest to the major differences between states in this respect. At present, we have very little involvement with the State of Nevada for law enforcement and juvenile justice resources because it is simply too difficult to navigate the relationship between the State and all the other tribes in Nevada. In order for tribes to work with states, it is essential for tribes to have unimpeded access to funding for tribal programs. We therefore ask that you make tribes directly eligible for law enforcement and justice assistance programs, where permitted by law.

IV. Conclusion

The need for law enforcement resources in Indian country is great. We ask that the Subcommittee recognize the important role that the Department of Justice plays in providing law enforcement resources to tribes. At a minimum, we ask you to reject the Administration's proposal to eliminate specific tribal programs under its jurisdiction. If we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our counsel, Mary J. Pavel or Addie C. Rolnick at Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP, 1425 K Street NW, Ste. 600, Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 682-0240; mpavel@sonosky.com; arolnick@sonosky.com.

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country. Without sufficient funding, DOJ has been limited in recent years to providing smaller planning grants, rather than funding construction of new facilities.

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TESTIMONY OF THE PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES FISCAL YEAR 2009

Mr. Chairman, my name is ***Herman Dillon, Sr.,*** Puyallup Tribal Chairman. We thank the Committee for past support of many tribal issues and for your interest today. We share our concerns and request assistance in reaching objectives of significance to the Congress, the Tribe, and to *25,000+ Indians (constituents)* in our Urban Service Area.

U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Tribal Justice - The Puyallup Tribe has analyzed the President's F.Y. 2009 budget for the Subcommittee on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies and once again find it to be unacceptable. We look forward to working with Congress to insure that funding levels for programs necessary for the Puyallup Tribe to carry-out our *sovereign responsibility of self-determination and self-governance* for the *benefit of Puyallup tribal members and the members from approximately 355 federally recognized Tribes who utilize our services* are included in the F.Y. 2009 budget. The following provides a review of the Puyallup Tribe's priority and special appropriation request for the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies F.Y. 2009 budget;

Summary: The Puyallup Tribe of Indians is requesting Committee support for a special appropriations funding for a new Justice Center to provide components of policing, court, emergency preparedness and detention for the Puyallup Reservation in the State of Washington. This new Center, designed to U.S. Department of Justice and Interior standards, will benefit and enhance the criminal justice infrastructure for agencies (tribal/non-tribal) in the State's 6th and 9th Congressional Districts. The requirement for a safe and secure facility to meet current and future needs is essential to the Puyallup Tribal Community and surrounding communities. The requested special appropriations will be used for the construction of the ***"Detention Facility"*** component of the Justice Center. This will include the ***construction of a 7,000 square foot, twenty-eight (28) cell adult detention facility, with a prorated project cost of $5.25 million.***

Puyallup Nation Law Enforcement: The Puyallup Reservation is located in the urbanized Seattle-Tacoma area of the State of Washington. The 18,061 acre reservation encompasses most of the City of Tacoma, but the area is a "checkerboard" of tribal lands, Indian-owned fee land, and non-Indian owned fee land. Our reservation land includes parts of six different municipalities (Tacoma, Fife, Milton, Puyallup, Edgewood and Federal Way). The Puyallup Tribe also provides services for 3,705

tribal members and over 25,000 additional Native Americans from over 355 Tribes and Alaska Native villages in our service area.

The Puyallup Nation Law Enforcement Division currently has a Chief of Police, twenty-six (26) commissioned officers and two (2) reserve officers to cover 40 square miles of reservation in addition to the usual and accustomed treaty areas. The officers are charged with the service and protection of the Puyallup Reservation seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. We currently operate with limited equipment, patrol vehicles requiring constant repair and insufficient staff levels. The law enforcement department and detention program are funded through our self-determination contract with the BIA. Puyallup has also received COPS grant funding for several years. This funding has been very important to our law enforcement programs, especially for purchasing new and updated equipment. However, the Committee should understand how little funding tribes actually receive from federal sources. Contract funding currently covers the salary for one police officer and one detention officer. The remaining twenty-six (26) police officers and nine (9) detention officer positions are funded by the Tribe. The total cost of justice services, including facilities operation and maintenance, exceeds $5,700,000 per year. As stated earlier, these costs are paid for with Tribal earned income.

The Tribe works closely with state and local law enforcement authorities. We recognize that in this day and age, such inter-jurisdictional cooperation is essential. We are fortunate to have a good working relationship with the stat, county and city agencies. The Puyallup Tribe has had intergovernmental agreements with Pierce County and the City of Tacoma for many years, and recently entered into one with the City of Fife. Puyallup Tribal Police officers are cross-deputized, so that arrests can be made under city or county jurisdictions, then offenders turned over to the local authorities to be processed. The importance of the cross-deputization is highlighted by the impact of gangs on the Puyallup Reservation. Currently, there are twenty-eight (28) active gangs on the Reservation. A few of these gangs are Native gangs, others are national gangs with Native members, and still others are non-Native gangs that operate on or near the Reservation. Gang activities include, drug trafficking, weapons sales, and turf wars which result in drive-by shootings. Inter-state 5 runs through the Puyallup Reservation and is known as a drug corridor. Methamphetamine, crack cocaine and Oxycontin are encountered on a regular basis by Puyallup Police Officers. In response to this increase in gang activities, the Puyallup Tribe established a Gang Task Force about four (4) years ago comprised of the Tribal Police Department, representatives from various Tribal Services Divisions and community members. To further address and deal with the impact of gang activities, the Tribe pays each year to send its officers to receive specialized gang training from the National Gang Crime Research Center. With the continuing increase in population, increase in gang related activities on the Puyallup Reservation and the impact of the increase in manufacturing of methamphetamines in the region, the services of the Puyallup Nation Law Enforcement Division are exceeding maximum levels.

Puyallup Detention Facility: A major area of concern is the status of the *Tribes Regional Detention Facility*. Many Tribes have testified to the desperate need of funding for police and detention. The deplorable conditions existing in Indian Detention facilities are documented in the September 2004

report issued by the U.S. Department of Interior Inspector General's Office. The conditions documented in this report exist today on the Puyallup Reservation. For at least the past four years, the Puyallup Tribe has submitted written testimony to this Subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Interior and Environment identifying funding for a detention facility as the Tribe's top priority. The Tribe has worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the ineffective P.O.N.I. detention facility construction program. However, due to limited and/or reduced resources, we were unsuccessful in securing funding for the replacement of our detention facilities.

Until 2001, the Tribe operated a regional detention facility, providing detention services to surrounding tribes on a contract basis. Due to damages from the February 2001 Nisqually earthquake, we have had to relocate to modular/temporary facilities. These modular facilities were not designed or built to any federal/state or tribal health or construction standards, as required by the Department of Justice, Department of Interior or the National Institute of Corrections. Since the relocation to the modular facilities, the Tribe's ability to effectively and safely incarcerate detainees has been compromised due to the condition of the temporary detention facilities. The useful and safe life cycle of these modular facilities has expired.

The Tribe's current justice facilities are inadequate to accommodate the various activities and services required in administering its justice system. During a time of caseload growth and pressures to enhance programs and services, each of the functional operational components of the justice systems has outgrown their current space allocations. The following provides an overview of inadequacies of the existing justice facilities: inadequate secure parking for staff and law enforcement vehicles; existing facilities do not provide for adequate levels of security between and within the various functional groups and/or agencies; detention facilities do not consist of appropriate construction type for its occupancy use; inadequate space to safely accommodate the public during specific court related functions; location and layout of the existing detention areas require supervision from law enforcement staff responsible for overseeing the department's 24/7 dispatch functions; and no accommodation for future growth in staff.

Puyallup Justice Center: In an effort to protect the safety and welfare of the Native community and surrounding communities the Puyallup Tribe has initiated the planning and development of a Justice Center to be located on the reservation. The Justice Center will provide necessary facilities for the delivery of law enforcement and judicial services including a Tribal Court, Court Clerk, Prosecution, Probation, Public Defender and Law Enforcement services, including Police Headquarters and a twenty-eight (28) bed Adult Detention Facility. Providing a single facility that hosts the full breath of law enforcement; civil and criminal processing; and post adjudication activities and services presents itself with a unique set of opportunities and responsibilities. The Justice Center will be planned and designed to provide for the effective delivery of the myriad of services required throughout the Tribe's justice system in a professional, safe and secure environment.

To accommodate the future needs of these service providers, a detailed Space Needs Program was developed for each provider. Information was solicited regarding current operations; present and future staffing levels; assessment of current and future workload/caseload; adjacency requirements;

access and circulation requirements; security requirements; special building system and/or equipment requirements. Based on this information, space adjacencies were developed in order to begin the development of preliminary massing and building concepts.

A preliminary phasing plan has been developed in order to meet budgetary constraints. Phase I would involve the initial construction of approximately 29,612 square feet at a cost of $ 15 million. This would include all public safety, police and detention functions. In addition, the complete construction of the two larger courtrooms along with their required support functions would be included while two smaller courtrooms and their associated support space will have their core and shell completed. Phase II would include construction of the remaining programs (approximately 3,400 s.f.) that will include the Probation, Prosecutor and Public Defender functions. The phasing plan has been incorporated into the Concept Design in a manner that would provide for the ongoing operation of the completed Phase I functions while the Phase II construction is completed.

Subcommittee Appropriations Request: The requirement for a safe and secure justice facility to meet the current and future needs of the Puyallup Tribal community and surrounding communities is essential. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians is requesting Subcommittee support for a special appropriations funding for a new ***"Detention Facility"*** component of the planned $15 million Justice Center. This will include the construction of a 7,000 square foot, twenty-eight (28) cell adult detention facility, with a ***prorated project cost of $5.25 million.*** The remaining $9.75 million to complete the Justice Center will be funded with "Tribal Revenues".

The Detention Facility, along with the other components of the Justice Center will be located within the Puyallup Reservation, on a site on Tacoma's East-side immediately accessible from Interstate 5 at Portland Avenue. The site is held in Trust Status for the Tribe by the U.S. Department of Interior and is approximately 4 acres with a market value of $2.4 million. Other financial commitments the Tribe has made to the realization of the new Justice Center; relocation of all existing Justice services to the new center at $1.5 million; the costs of design, engineering, traffic, environmental, etc at $1.7 million and furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new justice center at $1.8 million. These costs will be funded with "Tribal Revenues".

As stated earlier, the Detention Facility is being designed and will be constructed to current Department of Justice and Department of Interior standards. Puyallup Tribal Council-members and Project staff have met with the U.S. Department of the Interior – Office of Law Enforcement Services regarding design standards and future operational and maintenance costs. We also have met with U.S. Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs Senior Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General for Tribal Affairs. The Tribe will continue to work closely with these agencies to insure the Detention Facility is designed to the standards established by the federal government and tribal codes. This will ensure the timely and efficient delivery of justice services on the Puyallup Reservation.

The planning and development of the new Justice Center will provide the Puyallup Tribal Community and surrounding communities with the facilities required to carry out our responsibilities

in overseeing and administering the Tribe's justice system. Moreover, effective regional cooperation and coordination with contiguous jurisdictions will be enabled. As stated earlier, the new Justice Center will benefit and enhance the criminal and justice infrastructure for agencies (tribal/non-tribal) in the State of Washington 6th and 9th Congressional Districts. Regional support for this project has been provided by *Mayor Bill Baarsma, City of Tacoma; John W. Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive Director and Paul Pastor, Pierce County Sheriff.* Congressional support for the new Justice Center has also been secured with the Washington State Congressional delegation. We have met with *Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, Congressman Adam Smith and Congressman Norm Dicks and their staff* and all offices were encouraged by the Tribe's financial commitment to the project and the cooperation with local jurisdictions.

- ***The Puyallup Tribe of Indians requests support from the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science for funding in the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget in the amount of $5.25 million to construct the "Detention Facility" portion of the Tribe's new Justice Center. The Puyallup Tribe has committed $9.75 million in tribal revenue to construct the remaining portions of the Justice Center.***

Barbara Price, Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women
Outside Witness Testimony Before the United States House of Representatives
Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies:
Full Funding for the Violence Against Women Act and Raising the Cap for the Victims of Crime Act
April 2, 2008

Testifying to Request: $683 million for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs administered by the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, and a $717 million cap for the Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA), administered by the Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime in the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget.

Introduction

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, Chairman Obey, Ranking Member Lewis, and distinguished members of the Committee, my name is Barbara Price and I thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee to discuss the importance of fully funding VAWA. As an advocate for victims of domestic violence, I am honored to address Representatives who demonstrated phenomenal leadership last year to ensure funding increases in the final FY '08 Omnibus Appropriations bill for essential domestic violence programs. Your current efforts to understand the critical funding needs of agencies that provide life-saving services to victims across the country further demonstrate your committed leadership on these issues.

I speak this morning on behalf of two organizations, both the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women (NJCBW) and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), which together represent all New Jersey nongovernmental domestic violence service providers, all 56 state and territorial domestic violence coalitions, their approximately 2,000 members and millions of victims of domestic violence.

Full Funding for the Violence Against Women Act

NJCBW, NNEDV, and domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking service providers across the country support fully funding VAWA. Although VAWA programs have made systemic changes to meet the needs of victims, the demand for services continues to rise. In order to meet this unmet need and continue the progress of VAWA programs, VAWA must be fully funded in FY '09.

Incidence, Prevalence and Severity of Domestic and Sexual Violence

The crimes of domestic and sexual violence are pervasive and life-threatening. According to the 2005 Bureau of Justice Statistics' *Family Violence Statistics*, of the total victims of violence between 1998 and 2002, 11% were victims of family violence.[1] One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.[2] One in six women and one in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.[3] Of course, the most heinous of these crimes is murder. In New Jersey, there were 42 domestic violence homicides in 2006. In 2005 alone, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner in the United States.[4] Approximately 1/3 of all female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner.[5] These life-threatening crimes occur both behind closed doors and in our communities and must be taken seriously.

The cycle of intergenerational violence is perpetuated as children witness abuse. Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year.[6] Children who are exposed to domestic violence are more likely to exhibit behavioral and physical health problems including depression, anxiety, and violence towards peers.[7] They are also more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution and perpetrate sexual assault.[8] One study found that men exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse and adult domestic violence as children were almost 4 times more likely than other men to have perpetrated domestic violence as adults.[9]

In addition to the devastating emotional, physical, and financial costs domestic and sexual violence have on the lives of individual victims and their families, these crimes also cost taxpayers and communities. In fact, the cost of intimate partner violence exceeds $5.8 billion each year, $4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health care services.[10] Research shows that intimate partner violence costs a health plan $19.3 million each year for every 100,000 women between the ages of 18 and 64 enrolled.[11] The average cost per adult sexual assault is approximately $87,000.[12] Domestic violence costs U.S. employers an estimated $3 to $13 billion annually.[13]

Despite this grim reality, we know that when a coordinated response to victims is developed and immediate, essential services are available, victims can escape from life-threatening violence and begin to rebuild their shattered lives. **In addition to saving and rebuilding lives, VAWA saved taxpayers $14.8 billion in net averted social costs in its first six years.**[14]

Successes of VAWA-Funded Programs

In response to the horrific crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 and reauthorized it in 2000 and 2005. These programs, administered by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services, have changed federal, tribal, state and local responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. VAWA creates and supports comprehensive, cost-effective responses to these insidious crimes.

VAWA has unquestionably improved the national response to domestic violence. Since VAWA passed in 1994, states have passed more than 660 laws to combat domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. More victims report domestic violence to the police: nationwide, there has been a 27% increase in reporting rates by women and a 37% increase in reporting rates by men.[15] In New Jersey we've done even better – our reporting rates have increased by 51%.[16] The rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased by 63%.[17] **Remarkably, the number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 24% for women and 48% for men.**[18]

A recent report by the Office on Violence Against Women explains that "Many jurisdictions that fully adopted coordinated community responses to domestic violence not only dramatically reduced violence against women and their children, but several jurisdictions experienced a reduction in intimate partner homicides."[19] In 1995, **San Diego, CA** reported 13 intimate partner homicides. In 2002, the city opened a Family Justice Center that provided a coordinated, comprehensive response to victims. By 2005, the number of homicides had decreased to five.[20] In **Palm Beach County, FL,** the County Sheriff reported more than five domestic murders per year before 2001. After Domestic Abuse Response Teams and a new technology system were implemented, the County reported an average of two domestic murders per year; in 2002 and 2005, there were no murders at all.[21] These coordinated community responses are funded by **Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution (STOP)** grants, which are formula grants given to each state. In New Jersey, we have certainly seen evidence of such a coordinated community response. The VAWA-funded training given to the volunteer Domestic Violence Response Team members has helped more victims in danger obtain orders of protection and helped them access advocacy services and shelter. We have seen the domestic violence homicide rates drop as a result of these partnerships.

In addition to shelter and advocacy, victims of domestic violence need transitional housing in order to ensure a safe and stable future for themselves and their children. In just one day in 2007, 3,587 adults and 5,053 children were housed in domestic violence transitional housing programs,[22] many funded by VAWA's **Transitional Housing Grants**. According to Barbara's House in New Jersey, "The [Transitional Housing Grant] has been essential in creating and sustaining this program....The families we serve have told us that this program saved their lives and gave them hope for the future and the support they needed to become financially and emotionally independent." The need is great – 1,753 requests for transitional

housing nationwide were denied due to lack of capacity in one day alone[23] – and even small grant programs make a difference. For example, New Jersey has the second-highest average rent in the country, often forcing victims to return to their batterers or face homelessness. In 2004, New Jersey set aside funding to establish the Shelter Housing Exit program, offering victims first month's rent, security deposits and up to 24 months of rental assistance. In the first year, the average length of stay at shelters dropped by four days – declining for the first time in our programs' history.

Another crucial VAWA program is **Civil Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV)**. Research indicates that the practical nature of legal services gives victims long-term alternatives to their abusive relationships.[24] In **West Virginia,** LAV grants fund enough attorneys and legal advocates to meet the needs of every victim who requires legal assistance. **Legal Action of Wisconsin** has used its LAV grant funding to facilitate a partnership with Marquette University to train law students on providing legal services to victims of domestic violence. According to **Legal Services of South Central Tennessee**, "LAV funding allows [us] to provide services to victims/survivors so that they can gain independence. Without this grant, victims/survivors in a seven county area would be denied advocacy services." This legal support is an invaluable resource to victims who are escaping violent homes.

VAWA **Rural Grants** allow jurisdictions to develop and implement programs that address the specific barriers faced by victims in rural areas. During each 6-month period between January 2004 and June 2005, Rural program grantees served more than 20,000 domestic violence victims and 7,000 child victims. These grantees trained over 55,000 individuals and provided community education to over 300,000. According to the **Iowa Department of Justice**, Crime Victim Assistance Division, "Prior to receiving these funds, no victim service agency existed in this area of the state."[25]

For the first time in FY '08, the **Sexual Assault Victim Services Program (SASP)** was funded and will begin to meet the desperate needs of victims of sexual assault. This formula grant will allow states, tribes and territories to provide much-needed direct services to victims and training and technical assistance to various organizations including law enforcement, courts and social services.

The Unmet Need

"We have had numerous occasions where women and children returned to their batterers because of lack of housing or room in a shelter," said one **domestic violence program in Maine**.

This is the scary reality that victims face every day in this country – they reach out to services only to be turned away due to a lack of capacity. Because of the overwhelming success of VAWA-funded programs, more and more victims are coming forward for help each year. For example, VAWA-trained police now give out domestic violence hotline numbers, which in turn encourages more victims to look for services. **This rising demand for services, without a concurrent increase in funding, means that many terrified victims are turned away from life-saving services.** In just one day, over 7,700 requests for services went unmet across the country due to a lack of resources. During that day, New Jersey programs regretfully turned away almost 200 victims because they did not have the resources to meet the victims' needs.[26] In 2007, advocates at the National Domestic Violence Hotline were unable to answer 29,000 calls (14%) due to a lack of capacity and resources. Services for sexual assault victims are even more scarce and underfunded: with only 1,315 rape crisis centers nationwide, women, children and men are languishing on waiting lists to receive treatment and therapy after a sexual assault.

In rural areas, domestic and sexual violence victims suffer in isolation and programs struggle to provide services on shoestring budgets. For instance, in order to address the needs of rural victims in **Fort Dodge, IA**, the Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center (DSAOC) extended their service area to include two additional rural counties. When funding was reduced at the federal level, the project's budget was cut significantly, forcing the agency to abandon plans to open a domestic violence shelter. Now, when women

in the area need to flee to a shelter, they are forced to move over 85 miles away. **Without significant increases to VAWA funding, frustrating situations like these will become common across the country.**

Chippewa County, WI lost its VAWA-funded special domestic violence and sexual assault prosecutor due to insufficient federal funds. Since the position was defunded, Chippewa County has experienced numerous problems with prosecution; a significant number of domestic violence misdemeanors have been reduced to lesser charges of ordinance violation. This leaves perpetrators unaccountable and victims and communities endangered.

One of the greatest needs is specialized services for children who witness domestic violence, as children exposed to violence are more likely to experience a host of negative consequences. In ten New Jersey counties, we have a remarkable program called *Peace: A Learned Solution (PALS)* which is an evidenced-based, nationally recognized, therapeutic program that provides counseling for children who have witnessed domestic violence. Children in the PALS program who received intensive treatment for six months showed a significant decrease in trauma-related symptoms and behavioral problems as compared to children who do not receive this treatment. Though this program is making great strides, PALS programs are not offered across the state. With additional VAWA funding, we could duplicate this model across the state and reap its evidence-based outcomes. While a new VAWA program, *Services for Children/Youth Exposed to Violence,* was funded for the first time at $2.8 million in the FY '08 budget, we know that if it were funded at its authorized level of $20 million, many programs like PALS could flourish.

Overview of VAWA funding

Congress worked very hard in 2007 to support VAWA programs, increasing VAWA funding by $17.3 million overall. The increases fund established as well as new, essential and innovative programs. This funding will greatly improve our nation's efforts to prevent and end domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. In order to pass a spending bill, however, **Congress cut $12.7 million from established, cornerstone VAWA programs,** including a $3.2 million cut to *Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies (GTEAP)* and a $2.1 million cut to *Civil Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV).*

Cuts to VAWA jeopardize victims' lives because, due to a lack of resources, programs will have to curtail services, lay off staff and turn victims away. Some programs will even close. **By opposing such cuts and instead fully funding VAWA, Congress can take strides toward eliminating these terrible crimes in our country.**

The President's FY '09 Budget Request proposes consolidating all DOJ VAWA programs into one competitive block grant, cutting a devastating $120 million from the overall DOJ VAWA budget. The President's proposals would be decimating. VAWA sustains thousands of victim service organizations serving millions of victims each year. If enacted, the President's proposals would incapacitate the crucial network of victim service providers across the country. Many organizations would be forced to close their doors, leaving victims vulnerable as they desperately attempt to escape life-threatening situations.

Compounding the impact of federal budget cuts, many states are facing state and local budget crises. While federal funding cannot meet all the needs of victims, it leverages state, private and local dollars to provide consistent funding streams to lifesaving services.

Conclusion

VAWA-funded programs have created and sustained an increasingly efficient, comprehensive and lifesaving response to victims, making our country a safer place for families, victims and communities. Now, however, this phenomenal progress is in jeopardy. The President's budget compounds the painful FY '08 budget cuts, undercutting this progress and needlessly endangering millions of victims across the

United States. We have seen a reduction in homicides and the incidence of these heinous crimes. Yet as cuts force shelters and rape crisis centers to close, real victims face traumatic and life-threatening situations with no support. They face trauma, terror and death.

This year, Congress has the historic opportunity to counteract the results of the FY '08 cuts and the President's proposals by fully funding VAWA in FY '09. By prioritizing these vital, cost-effective funding streams, Congress will help to **end** domestic and sexual violence, and the United States will be a place where perpetrators are held accountable and victims are supported.

Raising the Victims of Crime Act Fund Cap

In addition to my plea for VAWA funds, I must tell you about **another distinct, yet equally critical funding stream that helps victims escape and heal from violence**. The Victims of Crime Act, passed in 1984, created the Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA) to be a protected and dedicated source of funding for crime victim programs. VOCA does not depend on taxpayer dollars – it is derived from fines and penalties collected from federal criminals. VOCA dollars are distributed to the states to support two important types of programs: crime victim compensation programs, which pay many of the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by victims as a result of crime, and victim assistance programs, which provide victims with support and guidance in the aftermath of crime.

Nearly four million victims a year are served by more than 4,400 local and state victim service agencies funded by VOCA. VOCA assistance grants support programs that provide assistance to victims of all kinds of crime including victims of assault, intoxicated drivers, elder abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, rape, stalking and many others including the families of homicide victims. To ensure a consistent distribution of VOCA funds to victim service providers, Congress set a cap on the amount of VOCA funds distributed to states, retaining the amount collected over the cap in a separate account to ensure the stability of VOCA. Currently, the VOCA Fund has an estimated balance of $1.7 billion.

Most domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers, the core of our response to victims, rely on continued VOCA funding to sustain their programs. With over **2,000 community-based domestic violence programs for victims and their children, providing emergency shelter to approximately 300,000 victims, and offering counseling, legal assistance, and preventative education to millions of women, men and children annually,**[27] we know that this funding is absolutely crucial in keeping victims and their children safe. In just one day in 2007, over 53,000 adults and children were served by domestic violence programs, including 8,249 adults and 8,432 children who were housed in emergency shelters.[28] Research has found that staying at a shelter or working with a domestic violence advocate significantly reduced the likelihood that a victim would be abused again and improved the victim's quality of life.[29] Victims must be able to access these resources to find safety for their families.

In the FY '08 Omnibus Appropriations bill, however, **VOCA funding was cut by a devastating $35 million.** In addition, DOJ is considering using a significant portion of the VOCA allocation to fund management and administration expenses within the Office of Justice Programs. **These cuts will be decimating to victim service providers and will endanger victims when they are turned away due to a lack of resources.** A 2008 survey of over 1,000 VOCA-funded agencies revealed that these agencies considered VOCA funding "very important." Due to the FY '08 cuts to VOCA, over 58% said they would "serve fewer victims," 46% said they would "provide fewer services," and 54% said they would "reduce outreach." According to one California domestic violence and sexual assault service provider, "These funds are critically important to our small rural domestic violence shelter and rape crisis center. Without them we will have to close our offices and stop providing these needed services."[30]

In order to meet the growing demand for these lifesaving services, I urge you to raise the VOCA cap to $717 million, restoring Victim Assistance Grants to FY '06 levels.

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[29]See: Bybee, D.I., & Sullivan, C.M. (2002). The process through which a strengths-based intervention resulted in positive change for battered women over time. American Journal of Community Psychology, 30(1), 103-132; Constantino, R., Kim, Y., & Crane, P.A. (2005). Effects of a social support intervention on health outcomes in residents of a domestic violence shelter: A pilot study. Issues in Mental Health Nursing, 26, 575-590; Goodkind, J., Sullivan, C.M., & Bybee, D.I. (2004). A contextual analysis of battered women's safety planning. Violence Against Women, 10(5), 514-533; Sullivan, C.M. (2000). A model for effectively advocating for women with abusive partners. In J.P. Vincent & E.N. Jouriles (Eds.), Domestic violence: Guidelines for research-informed practice (pp. 126-143). London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers; Sullivan, C.M., & Bybee, D.I. (1999). Reducing violence using community-based advocacy for women with abusive partners. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 67(1), 43-53.

[30] The National Center for Victims of Crime. (2008). *VOCA Funding: Victim Advocates Speak Out, Results from VOCA Survey.*

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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NCAI TESTIMONY TO HOUSE COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FY 2009 APPROPRIATIONS

On behalf of the tribal nations of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the Nation's oldest and largest organization of tribal governments, we are pleased to present our recommendations on the Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 budget for Indian programs.

Recommendations

***Priority 1*: Reject consolidation of DOJ programs and restore funding to FY02 levels. Top three priorities at DOJ: COPS $35 million, Tribal Courts $15 million, Tribal Prison Construction $35 million.**

Department of Justice (in thousands)	FY 2006 enacted	FY 2007 enacted	FY08 Omnibus	FY09 (Restored to FY02 Levels)
Indian Assistance				
Tribal Prison Construction	9,000	9,000	8,630	35,000
Indian Tribal Courts Program	8,000	8,000	8,630	15,000
Alcohol and Substance Abuse	5,000	5,000	5,180	5,000
Community Oriented Policing Services				
Tribal Law Enforcement	14,808	15,000	15,040	35,000
Title V---Incentive Grants				
Tribal Youth	10,000	10,000	14,100	14,100

***Priority 2*: Fully fund Violence Against Women Act programs; Research on violence against Native women; and the National Tribal Sex Offender and Order of Protection Registry.**

VAWA				
Research on violence against Native women			940	1,000
National Tribal Registry			940	1,000

***Priority 3*: Department of Commerce, Office of Native American Business Development, $3 million.**

Background

The administration of justice in Indian Country is clearly in crisis.[i] Because of the unique legal and political status of Indian tribes within the United States, the federal

government has a responsibility to assist tribes in safeguarding Native people from crime. Despite this responsibility, law enforcement and criminal justice services in Indian Country are chronically underfunded. In October 1997, the Executive Committee for Indian Country Law Enforcement Improvements issued its final report to the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior. The report concluded that "there is a public safety crisis in Indian Country," and "the single most glaring problem is a lack of adequate resources in Indian Country."[ii] In the wake of this report, funding for tribal justice systems was increased for several years. Ten years later, however, funding levels have been cut and law enforcement and justice systems in Indian Country are once again operating without the resources they need. As a result, tribal communities continue to suffer crisis levels of crime.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that Native Americans "experience an estimated 1 violent crime for every 10 residents age 12 or older."[iii] Native Americans are the victims of violent crime twice as often as African Americans, two and half times as often as whites, and four and a half times as often as Asian Americans.[iv] Two specific areas of crime in Indian Country deserve particular mention: domestic violence and drug-related crime.

Violence against Women: Nearly every study on the rate of sexual assault in the last ten years that has included race or ethnicity as a factor has concluded that American Native American women suffer a rate of sexual violence at least 2 to 3 times higher than any other group of women in the United States.[v] In 2000, the National Violence Against Women Survey concluded that more than 1 in 3 Native women will be raped in their lifetime.[vi] These statistics demonstrate that violence against Indian women has reached crisis proportions. Full funding for the programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act will bring much needed resources to tribal governments.

Methamphetamines: Nationally Native Americans have the highest rates of methamphetamine abuse.[vii] On some reservations the reported rate of meth abuse has been as high as 30%.[viii] The Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Law Enforcement Services surveyed tribes with whom they work closely on law enforcement, 74% of tribes indicated that meth is the drug that poses the greatest threat to their community.[ix] Meth causes dramatic increases in violent crime, suicide, and child neglect. An informal survey of the seven FBI offices located primarily in Indian country estimated that approximately 40% to 50% of violent crime cases investigated in Indian country involve meth.[x] In addition, the National Indian Child Welfare Association estimates that 80-85% of the Indian families in child welfare systems have drug or alcohol abuse issues.[xi]

In order to address the profound needs in many tribal communities, additional law enforcement and criminal justice resources are badly needed. The most telling indicators of the under-resourcing of public safety services in Indian Country are the chronic law enforcement staffing deficit, the over-burdened tribal courts, and the deplorable conditions of tribal detention facilities.

Law Enforcement Staffing: More than 200 tribal police departments, ranging from small departments with only two officers to those with more than 200 officers, help to maintain public safety in Indian Country. Current funding for tribal law enforcement and first responders lags well behind that for non-tribal law enforcement. The Bureau of Indian Affairs conducted an analysis of law enforcement staffing in Indian Country in 2006, and found that Indian Country has 2,555 law enforcement officers, yet needs a total of 4,409, resulting in a gap of 1,854 officers, or a 42% unmet staffing need. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, cities like Baltimore, Detroit,

and Washington have police-to-citizen ratios of 3.9 to 6.6 officers per 1,000 residents. On the other hand, virtually no tribal police department has more than 2 officers per 1,000 residents. Increased funding for tribes under the COPS program will help to close this gap.

Tribal Courts: Tribal judicial systems, the primary and most appropriate institutions for maintaining order in tribal communities, frequently are overburdened due to lack of federal funding. Tribal courts are overwhelmed with hundreds of serious cases declined by US attorneys as well as increasing meth and drug crimes. Tribal courts have been level funded for at least the last five years. Increased funding for tribal courts will ensure that tribal justice systems are equipped to handle their increasing case load.

Detention Facilities: Well functioning detention centers for tribal members both accused and convicted of crimes are of great importance to criminal justice in Indian Country. Detention centers in Indian Country often do not meet minimum acceptable standards for prisons: frequently basic maintenance does not occur, major sanitation concerns exist, safety and security are inadequate, resources for juveniles do not exist, funding for rehabilitation and re-entry programs is almost non-existent, health care services for inmates are lacking, and there is very little accountability for fixing the problems that plague tribal detention centers.[xii] As such, the safety of tribal members who are incarcerated is often jeopardized and the safety of tribal members in the community is put at risk because prisoners are offered few basic services and quickly released due to over-crowding. Increased funding for the construction of tribal detention facilities is imperative.

Juvenile Justice: A critical piece of law enforcement is juvenile detention facilities and juvenile rehabilitation and treatment programs. Many tribes have no place to house juvenile offenders and are required to shoulder the cost of transportation and bed rental in order to send their youth to another jurisdiction – often far from their communities. In addition, tribes have no ongoing source of funds for non-detention programs for youth. Research on juvenile justice has shown that detention is the most expensive and often the least effective way to deal with young offenders; it should be the last resort. However, without the resources to support alternatives to detention, tribes have few options for addressing juvenile crime. Increased funding for the Tribal Youth Program will allow tribes to begin to address this need.

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[i] Michael Riley, *Lawless Lands*, DENVER POST (Nov. 11-14, 2007).

[ii] REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR INDIAN COUNTRY LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENTS (1997), *available at* http://www.usdoj.gov/otj/icredact.htm.

[iii] Steven W. Perry, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, "American Indians and Crime: A BJS Statistical Profile," 1992-2002, at iv (2004) [hereinafter AMERICAN INDIANS AND CRIME 1992-2002], *available at* http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/aic02.pdf.

[iv] *Id.* at 5

[v] Amnesty International, MAZE OF INJUSTICE: THE FAILURE TO PROTECT INDIGENOUS WOMEN FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES (2007); Lawrence A. Greenfeld & and Steven K. Smith, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, "American Indians and Crime," p. 3, table 3 (Feb. 1999), *available at* http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/aic.htm.

[vi] Patricia Tjaden & Nancy Thoennes, NATIONAL INST. OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, "Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women," p. 23 (2000), *available at* http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/183781.pdf.

[vii] OFFICE OF APPLIED STUDIES, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, "Methamphetamine Use, Abuse, and Dependence: 2002, 2003, and 2004. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health Report," (Sept. 16, 2005).

[viii] Donna Vigil, Director, Division of Health Programs, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Oral testimony offered to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Hearing on Indian Youth Suicide (May 17, 2006).

[ix] THE NEW MEXICO INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT CENTER, "Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Law Enforcement Services, National Methamphetamine Initiative Survey," p. 4 (2006) [hereinafter NATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE INITIATIVE SURVEY], *available at* http://www.ncai.org/ncai/Meth/BIA_MethSurvey.pdf.

[x] FBI Indian Country Unit Presentation, The Federal/Tribal Meth Summit sponsored by the Department of Justice, Attorney General's Advisory Committee, Native American Issues Subcommittee of United States Attorneys (Oct. 13, 2005).

[xi] Connie Bear King, Testimony of the National Indian Child Welfare Association before the Senate Finance Committee regarding Keeping America's Promise: Health Care And Child Welfare For Native Americans (March 22, 2007), *available at* http://www.senate.gov/~finance/hearings/testimony/2007test/032207testcbk.pdf.

[xii] US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, "Neither Safe Nor Secure: An Assessment of Indian country Detention Facilities," P. 1-6 (2004), *available at* http://www.doioig.gov/upload/IndianCountryDetentionFinal%20Report.pdf.

GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
P. O. Box 9 • Odanah, WI 54861 • 715/682-6619 • FAX 715/682-9294

MEMBER TRIBES

MICHIGAN	WISCONSIN		MINNESOTA
Bay Mills Community	Bad River Band	Lac Courte Oreilles Band	Fond du Lac Band
Keweenaw Bay Community	Red Cliff Band	Lac du Flambeau Band	Mille Lacs Band
Lac Vieux Desert Band	Sokaogon Chippewa	St. Croix Chippewa	

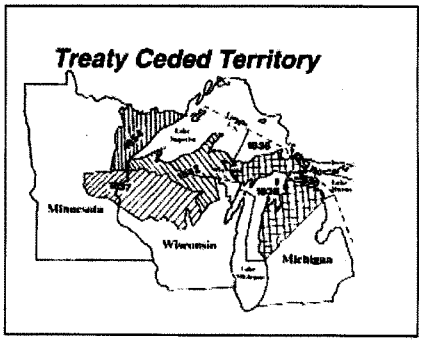
FY 2009 TESTIMONY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES
BY
JAMES E. ZORN, EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR
GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (GLIFWC)

AGENCY INVOLVED: Department of Justice

PROGRAM INVOLVED: COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP)

SUMMARY OF GLIFWC'S FY 2009 TESTIMONY: GLIFWC requests that Congress: 1) fund the TRGP at $31,065,000 in FY 2009 (the same level as FY 2007 enacted and $16,025,000 more than FY 2008 enacted), 2) maintain the Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP) as a distinct program within the DOJ COPS Office of Justice Programs, and 3) ensure that special conservation agencies remain eligible, unlike in FY 2006.

CEDED TERRITORY TREATY RIGHTS AND GLIFWC'S ROLE: GLIFWC was established in 1984 as a "tribal organization" within the meaning of the Indian Self-Determination Act (PL 93-638). It exercises authority delegated by its member tribes to implement federal court orders and various interjurisdictional agreements related to their treaty rights. GLIFWC assists its member tribes in:



- X securing and implementing treaty guaranteed rights to hunt, fish, and gather in Chippewa treaty ceded territories; and
- X cooperatively managing and protecting ceded territory natural resources and their habitats.

For the past 24 years, Congress and Administrations have funded GLIFWC through the BIA, Department of Justice and other agencies to meet specific federal obligations under: a) a number of US/Chippewa treaties; b) the federal trust responsibility; c) the Indian Self-Determination Act, the Clean Water Act, and other legislation; and d) various court decisions, including a 1999 US Supreme Court case, affirming the treaty rights of GLIFWC's member tribes. GLIFWC serves as

a cost efficient agency to conserve natural resources, to effectively regulate harvests of natural resources shared among treaty signatory tribes, to develop cooperative partnerships with other government agencies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations, and to work with its member tribes to protect and conserve ceded territory natural resources.

Under the direction of its member tribes, GLIFWC operates a ceded territory hunting, fishing, and gathering rights protection/implementation program through its staff of biologists, scientists, technicians, conservation enforcement officers, and public information specialists.

COMMUNITY-BASED POLICING: GLIFWC's officers carry out their duties through a community-based policing program. The underlying premise is that effective detection and deterrence of illegal activities, as well as education of the regulated constituents, are best accomplished if the officers work within tribal communities that they primarily serve. The officers are based in reservation communities of the following member tribes: in Wisconsin – Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, Sokaogon Chippewa (Mole Lake) and St. Croix; in Minnesota – Mille Lacs; and in Michigan – Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay and Lac Vieux Desert.

INTERACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES: GLIFWC's officers are integral members of regional emergency services networks in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. They not only enforce the tribes' conservation codes, but are fully certified officers who work cooperatively with surrounding authorities when they detect violations of state or federal criminal and conservation laws. These partnerships evolved from the inter-governmental cooperation required to combat the violence experienced during the early implementation of treaty rights in Wisconsin. As time passed, GLIFWC's professional officers continued to provide a bridge between local law enforcement and many rural Indian communities.

GLIFWC remains at this forefront, using DOJ funding to develop inter-jurisdictional legal training attended by GLIFWC officers, tribal police and conservation officers, tribal judges, tribal and county prosecutors, and state and federal agency law enforcement staff. DOJ funding has also enabled GLIFWC to certify its officers as medical emergency first responders trained in the use of defibrillators, and to train them in search and rescue, particularly in cold water rescue techniques. When a crime is in progress or emergencies occur, local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies look to GLIFWC's officers as part of the mutual assistance networks of the ceded territories. In fact, the role of GLIFWC's officers in these networks was further legitimized in 2007 by the passage of Wisconsin Act 27. This law affords GLIFWC wardens the same statutory safeguards and protections that are afforded to their DNR counterparts. GLIFWC wardens will now have access to the criminal history database and other information to identify whom they are encountering in the field so that they can determine whether they are about to face a fugitive or some other dangerous individual.

GLIFWC PROGRAMS FUNDED BY DOJ: GLIFWC recognizes that adequate communications, training, and equipment are essential both for the safety of its officers and for the role that GLIFWC's officers play in the proper functioning of interjurisdictional emergency mutual assistance networks in the ceded territories. GLIFWC's COPS grants have provided a critical foundation for achieving these goals. Significant accomplishments with Tribal Resources Grant Program funds include:

Increased Versatility and Homeland Security on Superior: In 2007 GLIFWC used COPS funding to obtain a 22 foot boat to expand patrol capabilities and coverage on Lake Superior. This boat also provides greater versatility than GLIFWC's larger patrol boat to access bays and harbors in the Lake. The boat will be stationed in Marquette for use in both the 1836 and 1842 ceded territories in Lake Superior, as well as to provide increased emergency response, when needed.

Emergency Response Equipment and Training: Each GLIFWC officer has completed and maintains certification as a First Responder and in the use of life saving portable defibrillators. Since 2003, GLIFWC officers have carried First Responder kits and portable defibrillators during their patrol of around 275,000 miles per year throughout the ceded territories. In remote, rural areas the ability of GLIFWC officers to respond to emergencies provides critical support of mutual aid agreements with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Ice Rescue Capabilities: Each GLIFWC officer maintains certification in ice rescue techniques and was provided a Coast Guard approved ice rescue suit. In addition, each of the patrol areas was provided a snowmobile and an ice rescue sled to participate in interagency ice rescue operations with county sheriffs departments and local fire departments.

Wilderness Search and Rescue Capabilities: Each GLIFWC officer completed Wilderness Search and Rescue training. The COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program also enabled GLIFWC to replace a number of vehicles that were purchased over a decade ago, including 10 ATV's and 16 patrol boats and the GPS navigation system on its 31 foot Lake Superior Patrol Boat. These vehicles are used for field patrol, cooperative law enforcement activities, and emergency response in the 1836, 1837 and 1842 ceded territories. GLIFWC officers also utilize these vehicles for boater, ATV, and snowmobile safety classes taught on reservations as part of the Commission's Community Policing Strategy, providing critical outreach to tribal youth.

Hire, Train and Equip Three Additional Officers: Funding was contracted to provide three additional officers to ensure tribes are able to meet obligations to both enforce off-reservation conservation codes and effectively participate in the myriad of mutual assistance networks located throughout a vast region covering 60,000 square miles. As required by the program, GLIFWC has absorbed the salary costs related to sustaining those positions, however COPS funding is needed now more than ever to sustain the other components of program related to training and equipment.

Consistent with numerous other federal court rulings on the Chippewa treaties, the United States Supreme Court re-affirmed the existence of the Chippewa's treaty-guaranteed usufructuary rights in *Minnesota v. Mille Lacs Band*, 526 U.S. 172 (1999). As tribes have re-affirmed rights to harvest resources in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota, workloads have increased. In addition, a consent decree signed in 2007 will govern the exercise of treaty rights in inland portions of the 1836 ceded territory in Michigan, where one of GLIFWC's member tribes exercises treaty rights.

But for GLIFWC's COPS grants, this expanded workload, combined with staff shortages would have limited GLIFWC's effective participation in regional emergency services networks in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. The effectiveness of these mutual assistance networks is more critical than ever given: 1) national homeland security concerns, 2) state and local governmental fiscal shortfalls, 3) staffing shortages experienced by local police, fire, and ambulance departments due to the call up of National Guard and military reserve units, and 4) the need to cooperatively combat the spread of methamphetamine production in rural areas patrolled by GLIFWC conservation officers. Examples of the types of assistance provided by GLIFWC officers follow:

- As trained first responders, GLIFWC officers routinely respond to, and often are the first to arrive at, snowmobile accidents, heart attacks, hunting accidents, and automobile accidents (throughout the ceded territories) and provide sheriffs departments valuable assistance with natural disasters (e.g. floods in Ashland County and a tornado in Siren, Wisconsin).

- Search and rescue for lost hunters, fishermen, hikers, children, and the elderly (Sawyer, Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, and Forest Counties in Wisconsin and Baraga, Chippewa, and Gogebic Counties in Michigan).

- Being among the first to arrive on the scene where officers from other agencies have been shot (Bayfield, Burnett, and Polk Counties in Wisconsin) and responding to weapons incidents (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Sawyer, and Vilas Counties in Wisconsin).

- Use of a thermal imaging camera (purchased through the COPS program) to track an individual fleeing the scene of an accident (Sawyer County, Wisconsin).

- Assistance in evacuating residents after a chemical plant explosion (Burnett County, Wisconsin).

- Organizing and participating in search and rescues of ice fishermen on Lake Superior (Ashland and Bayfield Counties in Wisconsin), Lake Superior boats (Baraga County in Michigan and with the U.S. Coast Guard in other parts of western Lake Superior), and kayakers (Bayfield County in Wisconsin).

In 2008, GLIFWC proposes to utilize DOJ TRGP funding for training and equipment to: 1) recognize, secure and respond appropriately to homeland security threats, 2) improve response to incidents that trigger joint law enforcement activities such as "incident command center" protocols and training, and 3) improve community awareness through state certified safety classes (hunter safety, boater safety, ATV safety and snowmobile safety). Simply put, supporting GLIFWC's officers will not only assist GLIFWC in meeting its obligations to enforce tribal off-reservation codes, but it will enhance intergovernmental efforts to protect public safety and welfare throughout the region in the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. The COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program provides essential funding for equipment and training to support GLIFWC's cooperative conservation, law enforcement, and emergency response activities. We ask Congress to support increased funding for this program.

THE METH PROJECT

February 7, 2008

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
H-309, United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

More than 11.7 million Americans have used methamphetamine, a drug considered more addictive than heroin and the #1 drug-related crime problem in America. Meth is costing states billions of dollars in criminal justice, health care, and social services systems. The cost of methamphetamine to Illinois alone is estimated in excess of $2 billion a year. Whether you measure its toll economically or socially, Meth is critical national issue.

I am chairman of the Meth Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing first-time meth use through public service messaging, public policy, and community outreach. The Meth Project first launched in Montana in 2005 with the objective of dramatically reducing meth use and developing a prevention program that could be replicated in states throughout the nation.

Since its inception, the integrated campaign has seen dramatic results: Montana has dropped in rank from #5 in per capita Meth use to #39. Montana has seen a 43% reduction in teen meth use, a 53% reduction in meth-related crime and a 70% decline in workers testing positive for meth.

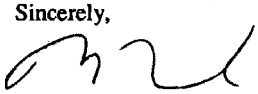
At the request of its state leaders, the Meth Project has since initiated programs in Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, and Wyoming, with other states to follow later this year. With the funding support of the U.S. Congress, this rigorous, well-defined, and research-based prevention program could benefit other states.

With $100 million annually, we believe we could decrease Meth use up to 50% over three to five years in the top 10 states where methamphetamine use is most prevalent.

270 University Avenue | Palo Alto, CA | Phone 650-752-1000 | Fax 650-752-1050

Please consider me a resource should you wish to delve deeper into this issue of national importance. I would be happy to share the results of the Meth Project and how states have implemented the program. I can be reached at tsiebel@siebel.org or 650-752-1001. For further information on the Meth Project visit www.methproject.org.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Siebel

SEARCH

The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

Francis X. Aumand III
Chairman

Ronald P. Hawley
Executive Director

Prepared Testimony of
Ronald P. Hawley, Executive Director
SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

I. Introduction

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am Ron Hawley, Executive Director of SEARCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee for your support. The efforts of your outstanding subcommittee staff are also greatly appreciated. SEARCH has requested a $2.0 million earmark from the Department of Justice, Byrne Discretionary Grant Program to be included in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriation bill. This amount of funding will ensure that the SEARCH National Technical Assistance and Training Program can reach local and state criminal justice agencies that are truly in need of SEARCH's services.

SEARCH is a state criminal justice support organization comprised of governors' appointees from each state. SEARCH's mission is to promote the effective use of information and identification technology by criminal justice agencies nationwide. For more than 20 years, the SEARCH National Technical Assistance and Training Program has been the only no-cost service for small- and medium-sized criminal justice agencies to assist them in: (1) enhancing and upgrading their information systems; (2) building integrated information systems that all criminal justice agencies need; (3) ensuring compatibility between local systems and state, regional and national systems; (4) developing and delivering high-tech crime training; and (5) providing computer forensic technical assistance support. SEARCH has provided training and technical assistance in every state. The criminal justice agencies that SEARCH has assisted have found our services invaluable.

Because the National Technical Assistance and Training Program is national in scope, SEARCH is able to replicate successful implementation strategies in one state or locality and disseminate and transfer those strategies to other states and localities. This unique program not only helps state and local agencies work more efficiently and effectively through the use of advanced information technologies, but it also creates a foundation for a national information infrastructure for interoperable justice systems.

SEARCH conducts research to examine emerging trends and issues that have the potential to impact the collection, maintenance and exchange of justice information, while advocating policies that ensure effective privacy protection for the subjects of those records. The

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technical assistance provided by SEARCH has always been sensitive to the privacy implications of the effective use of information systems.

In short, the automated sharing of information is a critical component of effective justice. Better information means better decisions, and better decisions mean improved public safety. Creating information sharing capabilities among state and local public safety agencies that consistently conform to national and international standards efforts and that provide tangible benefits and outcomes will strengthen the foundation for successful nationwide information sharing to help prevent major national incidents and terrorist attacks.

SEARCH's National Technical Assistance and Training Program has received rave reviews, not only from those local, regional and state law enforcement and criminal justice agencies that have received its services, but also from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), which administers the grants to SEARCH.

In the Department of Justice Reauthorization Act (Public Law 109-162), the Congress expressly and specifically authorized SEARCH's National Technical Assistance and Training Program. Chapter 5, Subsection C, 1184 of that provision reads:

> (a) IN GENERAL. – Pursuant to subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, the Attorney General may make grants to SEARCH, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, to carry out the operations of the National Technical Assistance and Training Program.
>
> (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. – There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General to carry out this section $4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

II. Byrne Competitive Grant Program

Before talking specifically about the SEARCH National Technical Assistance and Training Program, let me take a moment to ask for enhanced funding for the Byrne Competitive Grant Program. Through the Chairman's leadership, the FY08 omnibus appropriations bill established the competitive grant process for programs of national significance to prevent crime, improve the administration of justice, and assist victims of crime. The process is administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to those national programs that previously have received earmark funding under the Byrne discretionary program. However, the total amount of grant funding provided to all of the competing national programs was set at only $16 million in FY 2008. We believe that funding in the range of at least $65 million is the minimum necessary to permit a workable and effective competitive grant program.

SEARCH supports the laudable goal of distributing funds on a competitive basis to those national programs that can demonstrate the most compelling uses for those funds. However, the outstanding leadership of the Subcommittee in creating this program is undermined by the harsh reality that $16 million is a woefully inadequate amount to provide funding for national programs to assist criminal justice and law enforcement efforts across the country.

SEARCH's National Technical Assistance and Training, alone, received a $2 million grant from the Byrne Discretionary funds in 2006 — this would comprise 1/8 of the funds now available under the Byrne competitive grants. Dividing $16 million among dozens of national programs will result in drastic reductions in the level of funding provided to these programs or no funding at all for many deserving organizations.

Indeed, for that reason we not only urge the Congress to fund the FY09 competitive program at the $65 million level, but also to support emergency legislation that would increase the amount provided for the Byrne Competitive Grant program in FY08 by approximately $50 million so that those national programs seeking to compete for these funds will have a chance at receiving a meaningful grant amount and, thereby, continuing to provide their vital criminal justice services. We have attached to our written testimony a letter from SEARCH and four other national programs supporting enhanced competitive grant funding.

III. Use of Past Funding

Returning now to SEARCH, in FY 2007, SEARCH's National Technical Assistance and Training Program received a $2 million earmark out of the Byrne Discretionary Grant Program in the Office of Justice Programs. Through funding provided in FY 2007, the SEARCH National Technical Assistance and Training Program reached out to nearly every state 48 states, as well as the District of Columbia.

SEARCH's on-site technical assistance customarily includes helping a state or local law enforcement agency establish an automated justice information system; evaluate and plan for integration of existing information systems; or enhance, expand or implement a computerized criminal justice record system. A typical technical assistance activity takes approximately six weeks and is staffed by two individuals with the required expertise making three site visits—one for an initial consultation and data gathering, one to provide recommendations, and one for follow-up. Each of these technical assistance activities cost approximately $50,000.

SEARCH has been recognized for its longstanding commitment to improving criminal history records at both the state and national levels. SEARCH software and related materials assist police, fire, EMS and other first responder agencies in areas such as computer-aided dispatch, records management systems and mobile computers. In the post-9/11 world, information sharing and communications interoperability is more important than ever to protect our families and the first-responders responsible for their safety in an emergency.

For example, SEARCH is helping state policymakers and technical and operational stakeholders in numerous jurisdictions develop standards-based, high technology data sharing solutions so that critical law enforcement, court, corrections, prosecutor, and other justice agency information is rapidly shared to provide the foundation for accurate and appropriate decision-making. Simultaneously, SEARCH is actively focused on helping states develop privacy policies governing the collection of information in various state criminal justice systems to protect individual privacy and civil liberties in the growing information sharing environment.

With respect to communications interoperability, in this past year, SEARCH has provided critical assistance to multiple states completing statewide communications interoperability plans and investment justifications.

Meanwhile, SEARCH provides direct operational support to law enforcement in its cybercrime investigation program. SEARCH, for example, was integral in helping law enforcement identify and stop a suspect who was planning a shooting rampage at a local high school. A State Patrol officer contact SEARCH for immediate help after receiving reports about an individual making statements via the Internet that a local high school was to be the target of a shooting rampage. The State Police did not have the local resources or expertise to properly conduct an Internet investigation to identify the user. Using its knowledge of Internet Service Provider protocols and social networking Web sites, SEARCH located the individual's online profile on a networking site that displayed photos and videos of firearms and automatic weapons. The State Patrol was then able to gather the leads necessary to further their investigation. SEARCH performed a forensic capture of the individual's profile and videos, which were offered to the State Patrol.

In other cybercrime assistance efforts, SEARCH has helped a number of police departments across the nation set up MySpace predator deterrent programs. The departments set up MySpace pages that encourage local youth to add the police department as a "number one friend" on the youths' MySpace Pages. This gives the police a prominent presence on the youth's page, and also enables the youth to quickly contact the police online if they receive inappropriate messages. This is just another example of how SEARCH helps law enforcement proactively work to protect their young citizens from Internet risks.

Through SEARCH cybercrime training classes and technical workshops, investigators are taught methods to prevent, detect and investigate the rising tide of cybercrime, such as fraud, email threats, online stalking and child exploitation. In one-on-one work with law enforcement investigators and prosecutors, SEARCH provides immediate operational assistance and critical operational guidance to practitioners on emerging technological issues in high-tech crime, such as assisting a local law enforcement agency obtain evidence from cell phones seized at the scene of a gang-related drive-by shooting.

IV. Intended Use of Funding from Fiscal Year 2009

For FY 2009, SEARCH is requesting $2.0 million for the National Technical Assistance and Training Program. This request reflects vastly increasing demand for training and technical assistance, and will allow the National Technical Assistance and Training Program to meet assistance requests from dozens of additional state and local criminal justice agencies.

If SEARCH is provided with the requested funding, SEARCH intends to utilize the funds to address goals in both the information sharing and high-tech crime investigation aspects of the program. In the information sharing space, SEARCH intends to: (1) significantly increase the number of criminal justice agencies supported by our teams; (2) support through training and technical assistance the adoption of national law enforcement and public safety information technology standards; (3) contribute to the development of new and emerging law enforcement

and public safety standards; (4) develop specific information sharing requirements for the re-entry of prisoners into society following incarceration; and (5) improve agencies' ability to measure and manage their information sharing initiatives. The high-tech goals include: (1) expanding the number of law enforcement investigators trained in high tech crime investigation generally; (2) developing added hands-on training courses and resources for investigators to use during active investigations; and (3) encouraging a nationwide approach to cybercrime training by developing a model statewide cybercrime training plan that offers a comprehensive methodology and standard delivery of training and cybercrime education to law enforcement agencies in each state.

V. Conclusion

Congressional support for the SEARCH National Technical Assistance and Training Program is vital. The federal investment of $2 million can be leveraged many times over by contributing to the ability of state and local criminal justice agencies to provide timely, accurate and compatible information throughout the nation.

On behalf of SEARCH, its governors' appointees, and the thousands of criminal justice officials who participate in the SEARCH network and who benefit from SEARCH's efforts, I thank you for your time. It has been a pleasure appearing here today.

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9-1-1 Corporation
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HOUSE OF APPROPRIATION TESTIMONY

Date: March 24, 2008

To: House of Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science & related Agencies

From: Elizabeth Howe, 9-1-1 Coordinator Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Subject: Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation 9-1-1

Hello my name is Elizabeth Howe and I am a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST). I am employed by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe as the 9-1-1 Coordinator. As the 9-1-1 Coordinator I am responsible for the daily operations and functions of the Dispatch Center or Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) as well as the Emergency Response System for the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. Thank you for allowing me to present our request for 911 funding from the Byrne Discretionary Grant Program and/or the Indian COPS program operated by the Department of Justice.

I would like to point out that in most areas of the U.S. 9-1-1 is the number to call in Emergencies. Most individuals don't think much about 9-1-1, they simply know that when you dial the number someone answers and sends help. This has not been the case for anyone entering or living on the CRST Reservation, until recently.

If not for the fore thought and tenacity of some of Cheyenne River's key tribal members, 9-1-1 would not exist on my Reservation today. Before 9-1-1 was established, on Reservation residents and visitors had to know and dial a seven digit number in order to reach Emergency Personnel. Now imagine that your son, daughter or loved one is choking. Your in a panic and you have to remember a seven digit number or find a phone book to look it up. If you are a tourist on our reservation, you would not even know what to do if you dialed 911 and no one answered. You have five minutes before your loved one is brain dead and you have no physical address to give the dispatcher, because house numbers and street addresses do no exist on our reservation. When you finally figure out what number to call, you have to try to describe where you live using buildings as points of reference, and the ambulance driver and police have to figure out your directions. As a result, the ambulance does not reach you in time and your loved one is now brain dead. This can all be prevented if our 9-1-1 system, including its on-reservation

home addressing program is properly funded and has the proper tools to get the emergency personnel where they need to be. This is a real life scenario that the people visiting or residing on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation face on a daily basis. Failing to send emergency help in a timely manner to locations without street addresses costs lives.

The CRST has established its 9-1-1 Center with virtually federal help. The CRST passed Ordinance 72 9-1-1 Emergency Reporting Services on February 8, 2008, allowing the 9-1-1 Corporation to charge a 9-1-1 Surcharge of $3.00 per telephone access line. The $3.00 charge can only be used to support our emergency response system. State supported Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), also known as dispatch Centers, are all supported by property tax money. My Tribe, which has in excess of 80% unemployment and per capita incomes of around $7,0000 does not receive Property Tax income and does not have any available tribal funds to support our PSAP, thus the Tribe must rely solely on the $3.00 surcharge and the few grants that we can find to support this type of activity. Unfortunately our 9-1-1 operating costs now exceed what we can bring in and that is why I am here today to ask for your help.

Our 9-1-1 Center not only provides a valuable services to our members, it also provides a valuable services to federally funded programs like Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded Law Enforcement and Indian Health Service (IHS) funded Ambulance. If our 911 system fails to operate, these federally funded programs would again have to try and receive and dispatch their own emergency calls and their track record for doing so is not good. Because of budget cuts, the BIA stopped funding law enforcement dispatch in 2002, and began relying on the BIA funded detention staff at our jail to answer emergency calls when they were not busy with prisoners. This not only violated detention procedures and prisoner safety rules, it also led to delays, wrong addresses and other similar problems that were only addressed when our 91 I center was established.

Because the service that we provide is such a critical component of these federal programs, we believe that it is only fair that the federal government provide us with a reasonable amount of financial support. This is the only way 9-1-1 will function properly to save lives on the Reservation.

That is why I am here today. My current budget from the $3.00 surcharge provides my program with $360,000.00 of non-federal operating dollars. To make this program function properly I desperately need a total combined budget of $1 Million per year to hire the staff necessary and procure the proper equipment. I am therefore requesting a $640,000 add on to Byrne Discretionary Grant Program or the Indian Cops Program and report language directing that this money be awarded to the CRST 9-1-1 Corporation. At the present time my staff is severely over worked and my equipment is desperately in need of replacement.

Please think about the example I gave of someone choking. This person is relying on our staff to help save their life. If one of you were to visiting our reservation and you were injured in an automobile accident during that visit, wouldn't you have wanted a rested, well trained, well equipped 9-1-1 Operator answering the phone?

The Counties within our reservation boundaries have designated the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe as their PSAP because they do not have the funds or the ability to support a dispatch center. This makes us the only service available for over 25,000 people. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe is

the sole PSAP Provider for two Counties: Ziebach and Dewey. When combined, this 2 county area is almost the size of the State of Rhode Island.

Our 911 response and dispatch center also handles all of the calls for the Indian Health Service-Ambulance, Game Wardens, BIA Fire Department, and the Sheriff's Office for our two on reservation Counties Dewey and Ziebach. We are proud of what we do, but frustrated that the federal government has not given us any real financial help.

9-1-1 should not be a luxury only provided to people that reside in counties that can afford it. It should be a service that is available to every person in the United States.

9-1-1 is an essential component to Emergency Personnel. Homeland Security Personnel and Responders. To function properly it needs proper radios, Computers or IT and phones. If one of these components goes down 9-1-1 fails and someone suffers or dies. Its just that simple.

We know the tight budget constraints that you are facing this year, but please understand that the people who live in our area desperately need the same level of basic services, like 911, that are afforded to the more affluent cities and counties, and do everything that you can to help us.

Oglala Lakota Nation
Department of Public Safety

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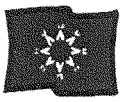

MARCH 2008- TESTIMONY OF ROBERT HERMAN, CHIEF OF POLICE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE- DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE & RELATED AGENCIES

Good morning Mr. Chairman:

My name is Robert Herman and I am the Chief of Police of the Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety. Thank you for allowing me to present our requests for assistance from the Department of Justice's Indian COPS and Byrne Grant programs.

Mr. Chairman, I am here today because the Oglala Sioux Tribe is facing the loss of almost 40% of its tribal police officers in FY 2009. Because this is coming at a time when we are also facing a frightening and devastating increase in the number of drug sales, violent crimes, gang incidents and domestic violence cases, we desperately need your help.

For the last ten years, the Indian COPS and Byrne Discretionary Grant Programs operated by DOJ have been providing my Tribe with its only source of funding for 40% of our law enforcement officers, all of our police cars, and most of our law enforcement equipment. This assistance is, and has been, critically needed. Our Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, which receives in excess of 73,000 calls for police service each year, has an unemployment rate is over 50%, a drop out rate is over 60%, and an average per capita income of around $7,000 per year. Thus, we simply do not have the money to supplement our tribal programs- even a program as vital as law enforcement.

By way of background, the Pine Ridge Reservation is about the size of the State of Rhode Island, and we have an on-reservation population of over 50,000 people. We are a treaty tribe in a non P.L. 83-280 State; thus, the criminal jurisdiction on our lands is tribal/federal and we have no state police presence on our reservation. While the federal government has a treaty, legal and moral obligation to protect the people on my reservation from crime, federal budget cuts and changes in federal programs have left us in a very vulnerable situation. The federal government provided us with funding for 119 police officers in the late 1990's but because of budget cuts, we were down to 61 officers at this time last year, and we are down to 51 officers today.

So in short, we went from 119 officers ten years ago to 51 now. That's a cut of over 50%. To make matters worse, twenty-one of those remaining 51 officers have only

been maintained by the DOJ Congressional earmarks this Subcommittee has so graciously provided in FY 2006, FY 2007 and FY 2008, and those earmarks are scheduled to expire at the end of September, 2008. So, if you do not help us again this year by providing new earmarks, we will be down to 30 officers by this time next year. As far as I know, no other tribal law enforcement program in the country is facing this serious a loss of manpower.

If we lose those officers, we will have an unimaginable law enforcement crisis on Pine Ridge. As I noted above, on average our Department receives in excess of 73,000 calls for law enforcement assistance each year, and 73,000 calls and 51 officers, or 12 per shift, is already an impossible task. To make matters worse, because of the size of our jurisdiction, a police call on my reservation takes substantially longer than a call in almost any jurisdiction in the United States. It is not unusual for an officer at Pine Ridge to have to travel well in excess of 50 miles to respond to a 911 call, simply because we don't have enough officers to place a police car in all of our strategic locations. Thus, right now our response time is averaging around an hour even for violent crimes. I cannot tell you how many nights I have laid awake thinking about which police car I can move where to try to reduce this response time, but you can't build a decent house with $5,000 and you cannot run an effective police department with the funding we receive. It's just impossible.

While we have a terrific group of officers, the people on my reservation are scared. We have had community meetings where people were talking about buying guns, not to hunt, but to protect their families from gangs, drugs dealers and users and other criminals. This is unacceptable. Today, we have drug dealers who are actually targeting our reservation simply because they know that we have such inadequate law enforcement.

I also have real concerns about officer safety. Our officers are driving at high rates of speed over totally unpaved and un-maintained roads, and they are doing so in cars which should not even be on the road. We have not had the dollars to repair or replace our police cars in some years, and many of them have in excess of 100,000 miles on their odometers. In another year, those cars will have over 150,000 miles because each of those cars needs to be driven about 1,500 miles per day. One car I just looked had cardboard holding the headlights in place.

Our lack of manpower also means that all of our officers work totally without backup, and our radio communication is far below minimum safety standards. I watch these police shows on television where three or four officers jointly arrest a person under the influence, and I know that while I am are doing that, one of my officers is probably walking into a gathering of 8 or 10 or 12 intoxicated or stoned individuals to stop a fight. He or she is alone, backup is at least one hour away (and that is generally only one other person), and that officer knows that if he or she gets into trouble they are on their own. Today, I have 5 officers who are off duty because they suffered injuries on the job. This too is unacceptable. Now add to this the fact that I have no one to replace them with, because my force is so small, and you can begin to see what we are going through. If we

lose those 21 positions, we could be down to 25 patrol officers or less on any given day because, under these conditions, my officers are going to continue to get hurt, no matter how hard we try to protect them.

Let me give you just one example of what my officers face every day. Two weeks ago, one of our female officers responded alone to a 911 call. When she arrived on site, she found a number of individuals high on cocaine and a strange car parked outside bearing California license plates. Some of the coked up individuals were firing off their guns inside a family home. She could hear the children crying inside the house and a crowd had gathered outside. Now any D.C. police officer facing that situation would have called for swat team backup which would have arrived within minutes, but my female officer had to go in alone, with no backup whatsoever, because the children were in danger. She could not wait another hour or hour and a half for another single officer to arrive to help her. For this, my officer got the thanks from our community, and her $32,000 a year- which by the way comes without medical benefits. Situations like this arise all the time at Pine Ridge.

Despite these hardships, the fine men and women on my force made 23,541 arrests in FY 2007 usually one officer at a time.

Victims of domestic violence call our 911 number, only to be told that help is on the way, but it will take them around an hour to get there. Imagine if your daughter who lives here on Capital Hill was being threatened by someone who followed here home from a party. She calls 911 and is told to try to protect herself until help arrives. The problem is that the help the police are sending is coming from York, Pennsylvania or Kings Dominion in Virginia. This is what many of our women and children face every day when their lives are threatened. We have one of the highest rates of domestic violence and child abuse in the country and we simply lack the money and officers to mount a real defense.

This kind of situation not only leads to additional injuries and human trauma, it also costs federal dollars. Our Indian Health Service hospital reports that in FY 2007 it spent $ 1.1 million on providing medical care to assault victims, another $1.8 million on the victims of automobile accidents, another, and another $411,000 on the victims of suicide attempts on Pine Ridge alone. That's $3.3 million every year, and that does not even count the cost of treating my police officers when they are injured on the job. Now I cannot tell you that all of this money would be saved by having more police officers out there, but I can tell you that the numbers would go down substantially, and that more people's lives would be saved.

To address all of these problems, I am here today to ask you for an earmark of $2.5 million in Byrne Discretionary or Indian COPS money to continue funding the 21 officers that I am scheduled to lose when my 2008 Byrne Grant earmark runs out, and add to approximately 39 more people to my force. The federal governments own studies show that Pine Ridge needs a minimum of 165 officers for its 50,000 population, and

with the additional funding that I am asking for we will be at 90. That will still leave us 75 officers below the federal government's own minimum standard for a community with our population. I therefore hope that you will find this to be a very reasonable request.

I am also requesting your help to replace the police cars that DOJ funded two years ago and to provide more equipment for my officers. Right now, 30% of our fleet has in excess of 100,000 miles, and 50% of our fleet has in excess of 80,000 miles. Given the 1,500 miles that our cars have to drive each day, these cars will be virtually unusable at the end of this fiscal year. Most of these cars have no first aid kits, no shovels, no fire extinguishers, no cameras, and no cones to stop traffic. They don't even have chains to pull someone out of the ditch. All of our officers are under-equipped as well. I am therefore asking for an earmark of an addition $750,000 in COPS funds to purchase and equip police cars, and to better equip my officers.

I do not have to tell you that running police cars with this much wear and tear, at high rates of speed on our unpaved and un-maintained Pine Ridge roads, not only endangers our officers, it endangers the public as well. I also do not have to tell you that every police officer, who does the kind of job that the female officer I just described does, should have all of the basic equipment necessary to protect herself and to do the job effectively.

Our 911 program is also in desperate need of new equipment and additional staff. We are the only 911 service for the 50,000 residents and business on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Our 911 center handles 379,608 calls per year, or an average of 1,040.3 calls per day, and the computers, consoles and software that it is using are seriously out of date. That program is so under funded that its current computers actually had to be purchased at Wal Mart. We handle all of these calls with a staff only ten people who divide up the shifts for 24 hour a day coverage 7 days a week. Imagine that, 379,608 calls processed on Wal Mart computers by ten people. This old and inadequate equipment is causing equipment failures at an ever increasing frequency. Our volume of 911 calls has our call center staff stretched beyond human capacity, and we need additional personnel to handle our ever increasing demand.

The last thing that you want to have, if your spouse has been stabbed during a robbery, is an over tired, under equipped 911 operator who sends the police and the ambulance to the wrong address. This 911 center is the hub of all of our emergency services and if it goes down someone suffers almost immediately. I am therefore requesting $1.3 million in Byrne Discretionary or Byrne Technology Grant money for new 911 equipment and staff.

In closing, I would also like to remind this Subcommittee that the 23,541 persons that we arrested, and the DPS detention staffs who guard them, are all housed in our two condemned jails. Our Pine Ridge and Kyle short term facilities are so bad that we have totally lost heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer, forcing the costly relocation of prisoners. Those jails have toilets that do not work, showers that do not work, exposed wiring near leaky pipes, and inmates sleeping on mats on the wet floors.

Our walls are so old that one of our inmates actually busted out with no tools whatsoever, and the air is so bad in there that people are getting sick on a regular basis. If these facilities were located anyplace else in the U.S., the ACLU would be having a field day because of the simple number of constitutional violations that arise in a situation like this. We have been talking to the DOJ and the BIA jail construction people about these problems for eight years and nothing gets done.

We are now at the point where it is no longer cost effective to repair either facility. We can't even get parts for our furnaces, water systems and even some of the broken doors. Yet, we wait while the BIA and DOJ do even more studies of tribal jail facility needs. Isn't the need obvious? If we got money to replace both jails today, we are not even sure we could keep these two facilities open while we wait for the new facility construction to be completed. If we are forced to close either one of these facilities, it will create a real crisis for us, because unlike those Tribes who are located near urban areas, we have no local non-Indian detention facilities that we can rent space from. So, if we lose one of these facilities, we will have no choice but to cut down on the number of arrests that we make.

Finally, our detention program is so understaffed that we cannot even provide a male and female officer when we have male and female prisoners. Usually, we have only one officer working per shift. To make matters worse, most of our radios don't work properly, and the officers in one of our jails have to use a police whistle to call next door to our juvenile holding facility when they need help in an emergency situation.

Not too long ago, when we had around 15 people in our drunk tank, one of those incarcerated individuals started to have seizures. This forced the female detention officer on duty to enter the drunk tank alone without backup to help him. Due to his medical condition, he grabbed her and was holding her down on the floor by the neck. She could not blow her whistle for help because she could not breathe. The only reason that this officer is alive today is because one of her relatives was incarcerated in that same drunk tank and he and the other inmates pulled the man off of her and called for help. I know of no other place in the country where the jailers have to rely on the prisoners they are guarding to protect them from harm.

Mr. Chairman, I know the kinds of budget pressures that you are facing this year, but I implore you, please do whatever you can to help us. Our situation is becoming more desperate by the day. On behalf of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council and the Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety, I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify here today. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

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March 27, 2008

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to request your support of a $52.7 million appropriation in the FY 2009 budget for the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS). This level of funding was authorized by Congress in the PATRIOT Act. As you may know, the IACP represents more than 22,000 police executives from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

The IACP wholeheartedly endorses the RISS program and is committed to its continuing success. RISS centers are a unique combination of federal/state/local cooperation, providing services to law enforcement agencies across the country.

Many of our members, as chief executives of state and local law enforcement agencies, have joined RISS and avail themselves of RISS's service on a regular basis. Any reduction of services will greatly impair our members' ability to secure information that is vital to the apprehension of known drug traffickers and other criminals.

Again, the IACP strongly encourages you to support full funding of the Regional Information Sharing Systems. Only with cooperation between all agencies can the law enforcement community have the greatest impact on crime in our country.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please call the IACP Legislative Affairs office at 703-836-6767.

Sincerely,

Ronald C. Ruecker
President

STATEMENT OF RACHEL SHONFIELD, LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EEOC LOCALS, NO. 216, AFGE/AFL-CIO TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES ON FY 2009 APPROPRIATION FOR EEOC, INCLUDING INCREASING FUNDING AND REPLENISHING STAFFING
April 2, 2008

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and members of the Subcommittee, my name is Rachel Shonfield and I am the Legislative Coordinator for the National Council of EEOC Locals, No. 216, AFGE/AFL-CIO. I am speaking in place of Council President Gabrielle Martin, who is out of the country. The Council is the exclusive representative of the bargaining unit employees at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), including investigators, attorneys, administrative judges, mediators, paralegals, and support staff located in offices in 53 cities around the country. I am here to give you a view of the challenges, which EEOC is facing, from the perspective of EEOC's frontline-workers. I want to thank you for the opportunity to express our views to the Subcommittee on the proposed FY09 budget for the EEOC. The Council remains gravely concerned that civil rights enforcement in this country is being compromised due to five years of level budgets at EEOC, staggering case backlogs, and a failure by EEOC's administration to appropriately prioritize what funds are available for replenishing frontline staffing losses. To address these concerns, the Council urges the inclusion of bill and report language in the FY09 funding measure which: (1) increases funding to $378,000,000, i.e., the FY08 funding level passed by the Senate last year; (2) directs the hiring of permanent frontline field staff to at least the requested staff ceiling of 2,556, in order to reduce the backlog; and (3) requires ongoing oversight of headquarters and field restructuring.

Introduction:
The EEOC was created by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC's mission is to enforce this nation's laws, which protect against discrimination in employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, and disability. As an EEOC Trial Attorney, I have tried cases, which are exemplary of the statutes we enforce. In one case a longtime female employee trained a male employee, who was then paid more than her to do the exact same job. In another case an employee was harassed because of her age. A different case concerned pregnant servers, who were not allowed to wait tables. A final case involved a landmark restaurant, which for years failed to hire any female servers. These injustices should not happen. Rather, employees should have an equal playing field to get a job, earn an income and support their families- without suffering discrimination, which prevents them from getting hired or results in harassment on the job or termination. To put it simply, EEOC's job is to ensure that the American dream is accessible to the nation's workers.

The Council Thanks This Subcommittee for the FY08 Report and Bill Language:
The Council first wishes to thank this Subcommittee for listening and responding to the concerns of our members last year. Most significantly, for FY08 this Subcommittee included report and bill language, which defunded the EEOC's disastrous contract call center. Also, the FY08 report

language called for the hiring of permanent frontline field staff to reduce the agency's swelling backlog. Additionally, the omnibus bill language retained oversight, which prevents EEOC from taking any action to restructure without first coming to the Subcommittee. Finally, the Council is very grateful that this Subcommittee recognized EEOC's critical situation and tried to increase funding, despite the agency unjustifiably standing by its request for a fifth year of level funding. Unfortunately, despite this Subcommittee's efforts, in the end the omnibus bill provided EEOC with only level funding.

EEOC's Primary Challenge: Not Enough Frontline EEOC Employees To Do The Work: The incredibly important responsibility of ensuring the American dream to this nation's workers is put on the shoulders of a very small agency, which continues to get smaller. Specifically, since 2001, EEOC has lost over one quarter of its employees. This Subcommittee's report language last year noted that according to EEOC Chair Naomi Earp most of the staff losses were to the ranks of investigators, support staff, and attorneys. This means that EEOC's entire workforce nationwide is now so small that it hovers at just over 2,000 employees. And only a portion of the 2,000 are frontline employees, who directly serve the public by investigating, mediating, and litigating charges of discrimination, including resource intensive systemic cases.

This small group of dedicated workers is responsible for processing the over 82,000 charges of discrimination, in addition to 54,000 backlogged charges. So while in FY07 the EEOC received the greatest number of charges since 2002, EEOC has fewer employees than it has ever had since at least 1980. EEOC's investigators have seen their inventories of cases climb to as high as 250 cases. These unreasonably high caseloads do not allow investigators to do an effective job of interviewing witness, reviewing documents, attempting conciliation, etc.[1]

The natural ramification of increasing work and decreasing staff is a skyrocketing backlog of charges of discrimination. EEOC's backlog has grown from 39,000 in FY06 to 54,000 in FY07. That is a 37% increase in one year. In its FY09 budget submission, the EEOC anticipates that at the end of FY08 the backlog will be 66,976. However, as of February 2008, the backlog is already 70,209, thus exceeding the full year projection. The forecast only gets worse. According to EEOC's FY09 budget, the backlog will continue to rise to 75,000 in 2009. For 2010, EEOC Chair Naomi Earp predicted in a PowerPoint slideshow presentation to stakeholders, that the backlog would grow to over 100,000 cases.

All of these backlog statistics represent American workers who are not receiving help. Employees who are suffering racial or sexual harassment or retaliation are still on the job waiting expectantly for action from the EEOC. However, the average amount of time it takes for EEOC to process a charge has risen from 171 days in FY05, to 193 days in FY06, and as of this February 2008 it is over 200 days. This wait of almost seven months could feel endless to a victim of discrimination, like someone with a disability who is hanging on to his job waiting for EEOC to assist him in getting an accommodation.

EEOC's Office of Inspector General (OIG) corroborates the Council's concerns about EEOC's shrinking workforce and growing backlog, stating:

[1] Additionally, on March 23, 2008, an arbitrator ruled against an EEOC attempt to change FLSA classifications, in order to avoid paying for the overtime that employees often work to keep up with their high caseloads.

> The Agency is challenged in accomplishing its mission of promoting equality of opportunity in the workforce and enforcing Federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination due to a reduced workforce and an increasing backlog of pending cases. EEOC has experienced a significant loss of its workforce, mostly to attrition and buyouts that the agency offered to free up resources.
>
> Further, the Agency is faced with an aging workforce that is increasingly retirement eligible. EEOC will have 42 percent of its employees eligible for retirement between fiscal years 2007 and 2012, which includes 46 percent of its investigators and 24 percent of its attorneys. Unfortunately, other than preparing annual succession plans, there is little evidence of succession planning implementation or recruiting and retention strategies.

In addition to staffing levels being at a record low, EEOC is also starved for basic office resources. Employees often have to scramble around to find office supplies. Even the number of copy and fax machines in field offices has been cut, with the remaining machines prone to paper jams. This problem of lack of support staff is compounded by having professional employees wasting their time wrestling with broken copiers.

Despite its Claims, EEOC Does Not Rely Upon New Efficiencies:
EEOC's Chair is fond of saying that the agency is making do with less by relying on new "efficiencies." However, there is no evidence of new efficiencies only new buzzwords. For instance, a claim that the agency is using a "national model" is a euphemism for using one field office's hard-pressed resources when the staffing in another office is too low to get the work done. This is done when federal sector hearings cases and private sector charge are transferred around the country, to offices with no geographic connection. The transferred cases are then quickly closed without effective investigation by the overwhelmed office which receives them. Transferring cases does not improve efficiency to the public, who needs substantive help. EEOC also does not consistently train its employees, either to improve skills or to take advantage of current technology, much less carry out new mission initiatives or efficiencies.

EEOC Should – But Does Not - Prioritize Replenishing Frontline Staff and Resources:
EEOC should prioritize replenishing lost staff and maintaining existing employees, in order to reduce the backlog. Instead, EEOC intentionally keeps staffing levels as low as possible, and then locks in those staffing losses. First, EEOC has perpetuated a multi-year hiring freeze. When EEOC does hire, it rarely results in a net gain of employees. Second, EEOC actually offered early-outs and buy-outs in 2006 to encourage retirement even of frontline investigators, in order to further shrink the workforce. Third, EEOC locks in these staffing losses by moving offices to smaller space or reducing existing space.

Finally, the EEOC refuses to fill over 200 budgeted slots, which are desperately needed. For FY07, EEOC received more funding than it requested. [2] However, even though EEOC's FY07 budget request had called for 2,381 full time equivalents (FTE), EEOC ended the year with 2,137 FTE's. The EEOC has provided no explanation for refusing to fill these two hundred slots.

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[2] In a bizarre move, EEOC had actually asked that its FY07 budget be cut by almost $5 million. However, Congress kept EEOC at slightly more than level funding, thus avoiding the budget cut.

For FY08, EEOC requested 2,381 FTE's, the same as the FY07 request. Congress funded EEOC at the requested level, so EEOC should maintain staffing at the requested level. At the Senate CJS Subcommittee Hearing on May 3, 2007, EEOC Chair Naomi Earp was asked by Ranking Member Shelby "whether the 2,381 full-time equivalents in the fiscal 2008 budget request is EEOC's current staffing or a ceiling on commission employees. Earp replied that 'we plan on hiring to our ceiling.'" *Daily Labor Report, May 4, 2007.* The Council urges this subcommittee to ensure that EEOC does in fact hire to its staff ceiling of 2,381 for FY08.

For FY09, the Subcommittee should increase EEOC's FTE ceiling by at least the 175 FTE's EEOC is requesting. To ensure hiring keeps up with attrition, the Council would suggest including report language requiring a net increase of at least 175 FTE's and a total of no less than the requested 2,556 FTE's. It should also be specified that these slots are intended to be used for permanent frontline field positions, similar to this Subcommittee's FY08 report language.

EEOC Requires An Adequate Budget Increase To Repair The Damage:
Five years of flat funding and questionable management decisions have left EEOC a shell of the agency it was a few years ago. Staffing is down. A controversial field restructuring downsized offices. Backlogs and months long case processing times threaten EEOC's ability to help victims of discrimination. Three years of a disastrous experiment to outsource customer service to a contract call center sucked up millions of dollars that were critically needed in-house.

Last year the Council sent out an SOS message for a budget increase and this Subcommittee responded. However, EEOC resisted. Finally, with another year of poor customer service statistics, even the EEOC admits a budget increase is necessary. So now all parties agree that an increase is in order. Unfortunately, the $12 million increase EEOC is requesting amounts to only a 4% raise after five years of stagnant budgets. Due to the staffing and backlog crisis, the Council respectfully requests that this Subcommittee adopt the increase called for by the Senate's FY08 appropriations, i.e., a $50 million increase resulting in a budget of $378 million. The increase should be used to replenish staffing and resources, in order to reduce the agency's backlog. Last year, this Subcommittee saw that it was in the best interest of the public to provide a greater increase than what EEOC was requesting. The Council believes that the Subcommittee should do so again this year.

Subcommittee Should Retain Bill Language Regarding Oversight of EEOC Restructuring:
On January 1, 2006, as part of a nationwide field restructuring, EEOC downsized a dozen offices. The restructuring added bureaucratic layers, but no frontline staff. EEOC also failed to follow through on its commitment to improve to one to ten, its ratio of supervisors to staff. This would have moved redundant layers of management to frontline positions.

The final phase of EEOC's repositioning is the delayed restructuring of headquarters, which has been promised for two years. The intent of the headquarters restructuring should be to reduce redundancies and layers of management. These resources should be utilized to aid the frontline work in the field offices. The Council urges the Subcommittee to retain bill language regarding oversight of this restructuring. Additionally, Congress should assure a transparent process for public and internal stakeholders to have an opportunity to provide feedback of a draft plan.

Oversight Is Needed for EEOC's In-House Call Center to Provide Quality Service:
After this Subcommittee issued its FY08 report language defunding the poor performing outsourced call center, EEOC's Commissioners voted in July 2007 to terminate the contract. The agency then dragged its feet, during which time temp workers answered the phones, with scant training and little ability to provide substantive help to the public. Six months later, EEOC finally hired low-graded employees and gave them just two weeks of training, which only allows them to read from scripts, take messages, and send out questionnaires, much like the former contract operators. Since EEOC appears to be merely cloning the contract call center, it is also likely doomed for failure. In July 2007, the Council issued a more effective transition plan, available on www.council216.org, which recommends hiring Investigator Support Assistants (ISA's) (GS-5/6/7). An ISA is a paraprofessional bridge position to investigator. With appropriate training, ISA's would not need scripts and would also be able to provide substantive assistance, including drafting charges. In addition, these ISA's would create a qualified pool to become investigators, as desperately needed vacancies are hopefully filled. Ongoing oversight by this Subcommittee is necessary to ensure the implementation of these and other reasonable recommendations that will lead to the success of EEOC's In-House Call Center.

EEOC Must Comply With the Regulatory Process On Federal Sector Reform:
Finally, I would like to bring to your attention that EEOC is preparing a proposal, which makes changes to the Federal Sector process. Indications are that the changes would be controversial, because they would affect the rights to discovery and a hearing for Federal employees claiming discrimination in certain employment actions. The Council asks that this Subcommittee ensure that EEOC comply with the regulatory process, including posting a notice in the Federal Register, before proceeding with any changes to Federal Sector enforcement.

Conclusion:
In closing, I want to again thank the Chairman, Ranking Member and the Subcommittee for inviting me to testify. I hope my statement will give you insight into the difficult challenges facing EEOC. I urge the Subcommittee to include bill language in the FY09 funding measure which: (1) increases funding to $378,000,000, i.e., the FY08 funding level passed by the Senate last year; (2) directs the hiring of permanent frontline field staff to at least the requested staff ceiling of 2,556; and (3) requires ongoing oversight of headquarters and field restructuring.

CHART: EEOC'S TROUBLING CUSTOMER SERVICE TRENDS[3]

		FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY2007
1	Full Time Employees	2,924	2,787	2,617	2,462	2,349	2,250	2,137
2	Backlog	32,481	29,041	29,368	29,966	33,562	39,946	54,970
3	Charge Receipts Filed	80,840	84,442	81,293	79,432	75,428	75,768	82,792
4	Resolutions	90,106	95,222	87,755	85,259	77,352	74,308	72,442
5	Avg. Charge Processing	182	171	160	165	171	193	199

[3] National Academy of Public Administration report, 2/2/03; EEOC Budget Requests; www.eeoc.gov.

COUNTY COURT
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

STEVEN LEIFMAN
COUNTY JUDGE

RICHARD E. GERSTEIN JUSTICE BUILDING
1351 N.W. 12TH STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33125

STATEMENT OF
JUDGE STEVE LEIFMAN
Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health to the Supreme Court of Florida
before the
Subcommittee on Crime, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
of the Appropriations Committee of the
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
concerning
The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act

April 2, 2008

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Steve Leifman, I am a Judge and I am currently serving as Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health to the Supreme Court of Florida. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to submit testimony on the importance of continued funding for the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), a grant program administered by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and authorized at $50 million per year. The program, which received $5 million in FY 2006 and FY 2007 and $6.5 million in FY 2008, is designed to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

As a member of the judiciary, I have seen first hand, the rampant effects of untreated mental illnesses on both our citizens and our communities. The number of people with mental illnesses cycling through the criminal justice system weighs heavily on our criminal justice system. Everyday our courts, jails, and law enforcement agencies are witness to a parade of misery brought on by untreated mental illnesses. Because of lack of access to community-based care, our police, correctional officers, and courts have increasingly become the lone responders to people in crisis due to mental illnesses. In fact, jails and prisons in the United States now function as the largest psychiatric hospitals in the country.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, roughly 40% of adults who suffer from serious mental illnesses (SMI) will come into contact with the criminal justice system at some point in their lives. Unfortunately, these contacts result in the arrest and incarceration of people with SMI at a rate vastly disproportionate to that of people without mental illnesses.

Often times, when arrests are made it is for relatively minor offenses or nuisance behaviors such as disorderly conduct or simple trespassing. Unfortunately, the result of incarceration tends to be a worsening of illness symptoms due to a lack of appropriate treatment and increased stress. Not only does this contribute to extended periods of incarceration resulting from disciplinary problems and the need to undergo extensive psychiatric competency evaluations, but it makes it all the more difficult for the individual to successfully re-enter the community upon release from custody.

Over time, individuals may become entangled in a cycle of despair between periods of incarceration and jail-based crisis services, followed by periods of disenfranchisement in the community and inevitable psychiatric-decompensation. In addition to placing inappropriate and undue burdens on our public safety and criminal justice systems, this maladaptive cycle contributes to the further marginalization and stigmatization of some of our society's most vulnerable, disadvantaged, and underserved residents.

With a prevalence rate 2 to 3 times greater than the national average, Miami-Dade County has been described as home to the largest percentage of people with serious mental illnesses of any urban community in the United States. It is estimated that at least 210,000 people, or 9.1% of the general population, experience serious mental illnesses; yet fewer than 13% of these individuals receive any care at all in the public mental health system. The reason for this is that Miami-Dade County, like most communities across the United States, lacks adequate crisis, acute and long-term care capacity for people with serious mental illnesses.

On any given day, the Miami-Dade County Jail houses between 800 and 1200 defendants with serious mental illnesses. This represents approximately 20% of the total inmate population, and costs taxpayers millions of dollars annually. In 1985, inmates with mental illnesses occupied two out of three wings on one floor of the Pre-Trial Detention Center. Today, individuals with mental illnesses occupy 3 out of 9 floors at the Pre-Trial Detention Center, as well as beds in 4 other detention facilities across the county. The Miami-Dade County Jail now serves as the largest psychiatric facility in the state of Florida. People with mental illnesses remain incarcerated 8 times longer than people without mental illnesses for the exact same offense, and at a cost 7 times higher. With little treatment available, many individuals cycle through this system for the majority of their adult lives; however, for some the outcome has been far more tragic. Since 1999, 19 people experiencing acute episodes of serious mental illness have died as the result of altercations with law enforcement officers.

Unfortunately, the situation in Miami-Dade County is not unique to South Florida, nor is it the result of deliberate indifference on the part of the criminal justice system. Our law enforcement personnel were never intended to be primary mental health providers and our corrections facilities are ill-equipped to function as psychiatric hospitals for the indigent. The fact is we have a mental health crisis in our communities, in our states, and in this country; and our jails and prisons have become the unfortunate and undeserving "safety nets" for an impoverished system of community mental health care.

The *National GAINS Center* estimates that nationwide over one million people with acute mental illnesses are arrested and booked into jails annually. Roughly 72% of these individuals also meet

criteria for co-occurring substance use disorders. On any given day, between 300,000 and 400,000 people with mental illnesses are incarcerated in jails and prisons across the United States and another 500,000 people with mental illnesses are on probation in the community.

The consequences of the lack of an adequately funded, systemic approach to these issues have included increased homelessness, increased police injuries, and increased police shootings of people with mental illnesses. With little treatment available, many individuals cycle through the system for the majority of their adult lives. In addition, the increased number of people with serious mental illnesses involved in the criminal justice system has had significant negative consequences for the administration of the judicial system, as well as public safety, and government spending generally. The cost to Miami-Dade County alone to provide largely custodial care to people with mental illnesses in correctional settings is roughly $100,000 a day, or more than $36 million per year.

Unfortunately, the public mental health system in the United States is often funded and organized in such a way as to ensure that we provide the most expensive services, in the least effective manner, to fewest number of individuals (i.e, those in acute crisis). As a result, the system is arguably set up to fail. In many communities, for example, people who experience serious mental illnesses, but lack resources to access routine care in the community can only receive treatment after they have become profoundly ill and have crossed the unreasonable and catastrophic threshold of "*imminent* risk of harm to self or others." At this point, the individual is typically eligible for crisis stabilization services, but nothing more. Once they are stabilized and no longer present as a "risk of harm," they are often discharged back to the same community where they were unable to receive services to begin with, only to get sick again and require another episode of crisis stabilization services. The result is that instead of investing in prevention and wellness services, public mental health funds are disproportionately allocated to costly crises services and inpatient hospital care.

Just as I have been witness to the tragic effects of untreated mental illnesses, I have also had the privilege of observing and working with many dedicated and tireless individuals who are committed to bringing about transformation of the public mental health system and helping to ensure that a diagnosis of a mental illness is no longer a risk factor for arrest, incarceration, or worse.

Across the United States, effective collaborations have been forged, involving diverse arrays of traditional and nontraditional stakeholders, such as providers, consumers, and family members within the mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and social services fields; law enforcement and corrections professionals; representatives from State and local governments and agencies; and members of the judiciary and legal community. These partnerships have established many successful, innovative initiatives serving people with mental illnesses involved in the justice system or at risk of involvement in the justice system, such as mental health courts, pre-trial diversion programs, jail re-entry programs, and specialized crisis response programs for law enforcement officers. In addition, the identification and implementation of promising programs and evidence-based practices such as assertive community treatment, intensive case management, integrated dual-diagnosis treatment, and supportive housing have resulted in more successful and adaptive integration for people with serious mental illnesses in the community.

The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004 (MIOTCRA), which authorized the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, administered through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, has been crucial to facilitating collaborative community-wide solutions to people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system. Local communities across the United States that have received funding have been able to design and implement highly successful, collaborative initiatives between criminal justice and mental health systems. This funding has helped to reverse the criminalization of mental illnesses, improve public safety, reduce recidivism to jails and hospitals, minimize wasteful acute care spending, and allowed those with mental illnesses to live a life of recovery in the community. It is imperative that Federal funding of such criminal justice/mental health initiatives be continued.

I'm proud to report that Miami-Dade County has been the recipient of Federal support that has helped place my community at the forefront in the nation in working to de-criminalize mental illnesses and resolve this problem of untreated mental illnesses. Six years ago, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project (CMHP) was formed following a two-day summit meeting of traditional and non-traditional stakeholders who gathered to review how the Miami-Dade community dealt with individuals involved in the criminal justice system due to untreated mental illnesses. The stakeholders were comprised of law enforcement agencies, the courts, public defenders, state attorneys, social services providers, mental health professionals, consumers, and families. The outcome of the summit was both informative and alarming. Many participants were surprised to find that a single person with mental illness was accessing the services of almost every agency and professional in the room; not just once, but again and again. Participants began to realize that people with untreated mental illnesses may be among the most expensive population in our society not because of their conditions, but because of the way they are treated.

The result of this summit was the establishment of the CMHP, which was designed and implemented to divert people with serious mental illnesses who commit minor, misdemeanor offenses away from the criminal justice system and into community-based care. The program operates both pre-booking and post-booking jail diversion programs; and brings together the resources and services of healthcare providers, social-service agencies, law enforcement personnel, and the courts.

The CMHP has resulted in substantial gains in the effort to reverse the criminalization of people with mental illnesses, and serves as a testament to the value and potential of true cross-systems collaboration. Key outcomes include reductions in recidivism among misdemeanant offenders in acute psychiatric distress from over 70% prior to program implementation to 22% last year, improved public safety, reduced police injuries, millions in tax dollars saved, and lives saved. To date, more than 1,600 law enforcement officers in the county from 34 of the 36 agencies in operation, have been trained to more effectively identify and respond to mental health emergencies. The idea was not to create new services, but to merge and blend existing services in a way that was more efficient, pragmatic, and continuous across the system. The Project works by eliminating gaps in services, and by forging productive and innovative relationships among all stakeholders who have an interest in the welfare and safety of one of our community's most vulnerable populations.

It is imperative that communities be given the resources to work collaborative to identify and implement promising programs and evidence based practices that will improve the response of the public mental health system and the criminal justice system to people with mental illnesses and/or co-occurring substance use disorders involved in the criminal justice system or at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system.

The health and well-being of our communities across the United States are inextricably linked to the health and well-being of our residents. To the extent that we continue to allow people with mental illnesses to revolve in cycles of disenfranchisement and despair, our communities will suffer. To the extent that the interventions and services offered are fragmented and do not embrace the concepts of recovery and hope, our communities will suffer. There is a need for a coordinated effort to replicate and expand promising programs and strategies targeting people with mental illnesses involved in the criminal justice system or at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system throughout the United States.

PLEASE SUPPORT CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER TREATMENT AND CRIME REDUCTION ACT.

The Supreme Court of Ohio

65 South Front Street, Columbus, OH 43215-3431

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Paul E. Pfeifer
Evelyn Lundberg Stratton
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STATEMENT OF
JUSTICE EVELYN LUNDBERG STRATTON
SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

CHAIR, SUPREME COURT OF OHIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE COURTS

before the
Subcommittee on Crime, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
of the Appropriations Committee of the United States House of Representatives

concerning the
Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act

April 2, 2008

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to submit testimony on the importance of continued funding for the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), a grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and authorized at $50 million per year. The program, which received appropriations for $5 million in FY 2006 and FY 2007 and $6.5 million in FY 2008, is designed to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, mental health treatment and substance abuse systems.

Finding effective strategies for collaboratively working with persons with mental illness in the both the criminal and juvenile justice systems is important to me, both personally and professionally. As a family member of a person who once suffered from depression, I am aware of the stigma of mental illness. It is not a popular subject, but it is one about which I am deeply passionate. As a former trial court judge, I saw first hand the effects of mental illness on people in the legal system. I am extremely concerned about keeping people with mental illness out of jail and diverting them into appropriate mental health treatment settings.

The number of people with mental illness coming into contact with the criminal justice system continues to be of great concern to judges and others in our field. Prevalence studies indicate that the rates of serious mental illness in jails are four times higher for men and eight times higher for woman than the rates found in the general population. There are many factors at play in this alarming situation; nevertheless it is one that manifests itself in all communities across the United States.

When people with mental illness do not get the treatment services that they need or the support necessary to capitalize on treatment options, they become intimately involved with the criminal justice system. These people are often well-known to law enforcement officers, who routinely pick them up and bring them to jail or to the hospital emergency room. These individuals are familiar faces in our courtrooms, usually having extensive records of minor crimes directly related to their mental illness. The majority is quickly released from jail and sometimes within days, are rearrested and brought back before us.

In addition to the obvious costs to the quality of life of these people with mental illness, this situation drains public resources and negatively affects public safety. Law enforcement officers, usually with little knowledge of mental health issues, must try to decide how to manage the cases of people whose actions and symptoms are usually the result of an untreated mental illness. This repeating process weighs heavily on our criminal justice system, which was not designed to handle these individuals and provide the treatment they need.

As a judge, I at first felt extremely limited in my options when people with mental illness came before me, but it was obvious that we could not continue with the status quo. And yet, the scope of the problem seemed overwhelming; the issue of people with mental illness stretches across many systems, not only mental health and criminal justice, but housing, substance use, and countless others. Therefore, in thinking about how best to proceed, it became clear that collaboration across systems and agencies must be at the cornerstone of any efforts made to improve outcomes for people with mental illness in the criminal justice system.

As a Supreme Court Justice, I've been able to look at this issue at the statewide level, taking into account my experiences in the county courtroom. A number of years ago, I began to pull together people from different agencies to discuss how we could nurture mental health initiatives for people with mental illnesses within the court system. The group became formalized as the Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Mental Illness and the Courts. This task force has grown to forty representatives from a wide range of organizations and agencies and has greatly helped to foster the exchange of information across groups that might otherwise not have the chance to collaborate on this common challenge.

Our main goal is to encourage and support community efforts to convene the same sort of task force at the local level so that county agencies can collaborate on criminal justice/mental health issues and start programs that will help people with mental illness

to end their cycle of recidivism. We at the state level have been thrilled with the dedication that communities have brought to this issue, and over the last few years, Ohio has become a national leader in the areas of criminal justice and mental health.

We now have thirty-six mental health courts in our state, indicating that one-fifth of all mental health courts in the United States are in Ohio. These programs are helping to get people with mental illness out of jail and back into their communities, where they are connected with treatment services and supervised by the court. In addition to the positive reactions from judges, court staff and treatment providers working with mental health court participants, studies are beginning to illustrate statistically the value of these programs.

Law enforcement has been another key area of focus, for officers respond frequently to calls for service involving people with mental illness without having the necessary resources or trainings. These encounters are not only potentially volatile but costly, as law enforcement officers often must take these people into custody for transport to jail.

In order to improve the outcomes of these interactions, we have looked at how to develop specialized training for all new law enforcement officers and to create local crisis intervention teams (CIT). The Ohio Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence (CJ/CCoE), a close partner of our Advisory Committee, works with communities to promote CIT throughout Ohio, and we now have over 2,800 peace officers trained in CIT.

Yet even in Ohio, where so much as been accomplished, our efforts represent only the first step towards addressing criminal justice/mental health issues. Despite our impressive CIT numbers, fewer than 10% of our peace officers have been trained, and while our mental health courts serve hundreds of people, thousands with similar mental health diagnoses go through our traditional court system and end up in jail or prison.

In our state, we have seen the importance of setting an example of dedication and cooperation at the highest possible level to encourage local communities to form similar partnerships. In Ohio, our Advisory Committee has been instrumental and even more can be accomplished when this direction comes from the federal level.

Criminal justice and mental health practitioners in communities across the country are forming task forces and planning programs; yet without funding, it is often difficult to implement these cooperative plans. Grants funded by MIOTCRA as part of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) can provide jurisdictions with enough support to bring community members together to think through issues and determine the most effective ways to improve outcomes for people with mental illnesses locally. The key to addressing these issues lies in partnerships and cooperation, which is why the JMHCP, which requires that applications be submitted jointly by criminal justice and mental health agencies, is such a landmark program.

Ohio has already greatly benefited from MIOTCRA and the JMHCP. In 2006, three counties received funding, two of these to work on juvenile issues, a critical piece of this problem as the proportion of youth with mental illnesses in the justice system is even higher than that of adults. One other county received a grant in 2007, and all of these jurisdictions are making great headway in finding community solutions that will keep people with mental illness from cycling in and out of the criminal justice system.

The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act has the potential to change, community by community, how we handle the cases of people with mental illness who enter our courtrooms, jails and prisons – and eventually – keep them from entering at all. The JMHCP grants are highly competitive and only a fraction of the jurisdictions who applied for support have received awards. Appropriating funds for MIOTCRA will allow communities across the United States to realize their efforts to improve outcomes for people with mental illness involved with the criminal justice system and through this process ensure community safety.

I am grateful for the commitment Congress has shown to criminal justice/mental health issues by its reauthorization of MIOTCRA. In 2003, I had the opportunity to testify in person in support of the Mentally Ill Offender and Crime Reduction Act. I am hopeful now that significant appropriations can be made to support this critical program in FY 2009 to further what has been accomplished. With your leadership and support, we can successfully reverse the trend where our jails and prisons have become the de facto mental health system in many of our communities.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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Legislative Budget Commission

SENATOR STEPHEN R. WISE
5th District

March 28, 2008

STATEMENT OF
SENATOR STEPHEN R. WISE
FLORIDA STATE SENATE

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES OF
THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONCERNING
THE SECOND CHANCE ACT
APRIL 2, 2008

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to submit testimony on the importance of funding support for the Second Chance Act, specifically the Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Demonstration Projects (sec. 101), recently authorized at $55 million per year, and the Mentoring Grants (sec. 212), authorized at $15 million per year. Both programs would be administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. As a state senator in Florida, I can attest to the enormous burden that our states shoulder in managing an expanding corrections population and increasing failure rates.

Prisoner reentry is about reducing and preventing crime. Members on both sides of the aisle know that we need to be tough and smart on crime. The number of inmates in Florida prisons rose 20.1% over the last 5 years from 77,316 in June 2003 to 92,844 in June 2007. Recidivism rates are high among this population: nearly half of individuals released from Florida prisons committed new offenses within five years after their release.

We need a balanced approach to reentry, one that is tough on dangerous felons who return to communities and continue to commit crimes, but also supports individuals who want to avoid criminal activity and break the cycle of recidivism. This shift in thinking by federal and state governments and law enforcement means better use of criminal justice resources and greater accountability to our communities.

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KEN PRUITT
President of the Senate

LISA CARLTON
President Pro Tempore

The Second Chance Act reconfigures grant programs around reentry and sets in place better accountability for those dollars at the state and local level. There are two main grant programs in the Second Chance Act that we hope to see funded in 2009. First, the bill reauthorizes and expands the Reentry Demonstration Projects for states and local governments. Second, the bill provides a small grant program for nonprofit organizations for mentoring prisoners and providing transitional services. These two provisions of the bill are key to reorganizing the national discussion around prisoner reentry while providing the seed money necessary to help states and communities test strategies to reduce recidivism and share that knowledge.

Issues around reentry touch nearly every aspect of our communities, from education, families, housing, treatment services, our religious community and more. The impact that the large number of individuals released from prisons and jails has on our communities is examined in the landmark publication, the *Report of the Reentry Policy Council*. The *Report* draws on the input of over 100 leading policymakers -- Republicans and Democrats, in addition to officials representing law enforcement, corrections, and health and social service systems across the country -- seeking to improve the likelihood that people released from prisons and jails succeed in the community. This landmark report offers hundreds of bipartisan recommendations dedicated to health care, education, substance abuse, housing, employment, supportive relationships, victims, mental health, and behaviors and attitudes, and it describes what policymakers can do to address these areas to improve reentry.

The law enforcement community has a unique role in improving prisoner reentry and addressing repeat offenders. When law enforcement is informed about who is returning to their neighborhoods and works in partnership on local reentry efforts, deployment of police services can be dedicated to both prevention and enforcement to respond to the influx of returning offenders to the neighborhoods. For example, in Massachusetts, the Boston Re-Entry Initiative coordinated by the Boston Police Department targets individuals who are likely to reoffend upon release and provides participants with intensive case management and mentoring services for up to 12 months after release to help individuals access social services, substance abuse treatment, employment services, and other supports. This partnership provides a multifaceted approach to help reduce recidivism and aid recently released individuals in their transition back into the community.

Given the high rates at which people released from prisons and jails are reincarcerated, it is increasingly important to ensure that these individuals are prepared for reentry before their return to the community. The Second Chance Act includes assessment tools in the allowable uses of funds for states and communities to determine who is returning to prison or jail and which of those prisoners present the greatest risk to community safety. Assessment tools are a useful resource for reentry planners, case managers, community supervision officers, and others working to facilitate successful reentry. Intake assessments can help inform an individual's security classification while incarcerated, and a transition plan for his or her return to the

community. Pre-release assessments can help identify individuals who have the highest risk of reoffending and need intensive supervision, and can highlight the service needs of these individuals once in the community. We need this resource. The Second Chance Act would also help in the development of procedures to assist relevant authorities in determining when release is appropriate and the use of data to inform the release decision. This would include the use of proven assessment tools to assess the risk factors of returning inmates and the use of technology to advance post-release supervision.

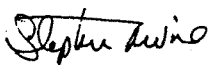
Improving the likelihood that people released from prisons and jails succeed in the community requires the availability of treatment and programming in correctional facilities followed by reentry services in the community. However, providing services that address the wide range of needs of people leaving prisons and jails is a task that state governments cannot tackle without the support of community partners.

Community and faith-based groups have a long history of outreach and service to people who are incarcerated and their families. Leveraging these local resources can have a significant impact on public safety, public spending, and the health of communities generally. Non-profit agencies, faith institutions, and other community-based organizations, which often include volunteers and mentors who themselves have been incarcerated, are often in the best position to individuals through their transition from prison to the community.

The reentry programs these groups provide have demonstrated favorable outcomes for the individuals they serve. For example, Operation New Hope, a nonprofit community development organization, works to revitalize struggling urban communities in Jacksonville, Florida. It oversees Ready4Work Jacksonville, a workforce development program targeted at individuals who have been recently released from prison. The program, which provides intensive case management, life coaching, and career development services, is nationally recognized as a promising model for facilitating individuals' transitions from prison to the community through employment. Riverside House, also in Florida, is a non-profit, faith based, co-ed residential re-entry facility operating for 35 years. The organization's staff provides counseling, life skills training, vocational services to individuals with criminal records. Riverside House helps individuals break free from the cycle of crime and return to their families and society to live positive, productive lives.

The Second Chance Act would provide funding for organizations like Operation New Hope and Riverside House that provide crucial reentry services through its Demonstration Projects and Mentoring grant programs. Through the Second Chance Act, we can support the development of new and innovative reentry programs and initiatives, and expand the reach of existing ones that have shown to be effective.

Please support funding for the Second Chance Act in FY 2009.



State of Florida Senator – District 5

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ALBANY

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Assemblyman 35th District
Queens County

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Assembly Standing Committee on Correction
Sub-Committee on Airports and Economic Development

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New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus
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STATEMENT OF
ASSEMBLYMAN JEFFRION AUBRY
NEW YORK STATE
CHAIRMAN, STANDING COMMITTEE ON CORRECTION

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONCERNING
THE SECOND CHANCE ACT
APRIL 2, 2008

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to submit testimony on the importance of funding support for the Second Chance Act, specifically the Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Demonstration Projects (sec. 101), recently authorized at $55 million per year, and the Mentoring Grants (sec. 212), authorized at $15 million per year. Both programs would be administered by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

The number of people released from prisons and jails has increased dramatically in recent years, and this has had a significant impact on public safety, corrections budgets, and the community. There are currently 1.7 million people serving time in our federal and state prisons, and millions of people are cycling through local jails every year. Ninety-seven percent of all incarcerated individuals will eventually be released and will return to communities. With growing numbers of people reentering our communities, state, county, and local governments are struggling to meet the wide range of service needs of these individuals while still continuing to ensure public safety.

As a state legislator and Chairman of the New York Assembly's Committee on Correction, I have seen the great impact of recidivism on our communities, corrections system, and state budget. Significant portions of state budgets nationwide are now invested in the criminal justice system. State spending on corrections has risen faster over 20 years than spending on nearly any other state budget item, and the burden on our citizens and taxpayers is also a serious concern. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, expenditures on corrections

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alone increased from $9 billion per year on corrections in 1982 to $60 billion two decades later. These figures do not include the cost of arrest and prosecution, nor do they take into account the cost to victims.

Despite these expenditures, recidivism rates remain high and by some measures have actually risen. Two out of three individuals released from prison are rearrested within three years of their return to the community. These failure rates are a key reason prison populations continue to swell nationally. To increase public safety, policymakers must improve the success rates for people released from prisons and jails. The Second Chance Act will help ensure the transition people make from prison or jail to the community is safe and successful. By addressing the most basic needs of prisoners coming home, we can reduce their chances of re-offending and improve their success as productive, contributing citizens, while still maintaining public safety.

Through Second Chance Act's largest provision, the Adult and Juvenile Reentry Demonstration Projects, small amounts of federal dollars can help to encourage innovation in reentry, establish standards of performance and help disseminate to communities what works and what doesn't. The focus areas for the demonstration grants are employment, housing, substance abuse and mental health treatment, pre-release planning, children and family strategies and risk assessment. These priority areas for funding state and local projects are grounded in the research and data on reentry that we currently have, many of which are detailed in the *Report of the Reentry Policy Council*. This landmark report provides hundreds of recommendations, which reflect the common ground reached by a wide-ranging, diverse group of leaders – Republicans and Democrats alike – who collectively represent every region of the country, and it features dozens of examples of programs that have been shown to make a difference in the lives of those leaving prison or jail, their families, and their communities. The Reentry Policy Council is coordinated by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and I am currently serving as a member of its board of directors. The Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that serves federal, state, and local governments from all three branches by providing practical, nonpartisan, and evidence-based advice to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

The data that we have on the importance of children and family connections for reentering individuals is compelling. In 1999, an estimated 721,500 state and federal prisoners were parents to nearly 1.5 million minor children, up 50 percent from the previous decade. Programs that facilitate and strengthen family connections during incarceration and after release have been shown to lessen the strain of parental separation, reduce drug use and recidivism rates, and enhance family well-being.

La Bodega de la Familia in New York City is one example of a promising program that has improved the success rate for individuals under community supervision by involving family members and bridging the gap between the individual, family members, and the parole officer. A yearlong evaluation by the Vera Institute of Justice suggests that La Bodega's family-based approach had improved outcomes for individuals under community supervision, family members, and parole officers. Individuals participating in the program recidivated at a lower rate in the first six months of parole, and illegal drug use by individuals and family members participating in the program decreased significantly. The Second Chance Act provides funding

for programs like the one run by La Bodega de la Familia to implement family-based initiatives, as well as needed substance abuse and mental health treatment programs.

I am also glad to see that states and communities can apply for funds under the Second Chance Act project for substance abuse and mental health treatment, key ingredients in successful reentry and reduced recidivism. The incidence of serious mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder, is two to four times higher for prisoners than for the general population. Generally, mental health services - both in prison and in the community - are limited and insufficient to meet the growing need. The Second Chance Act would allow states and communities to propose strategies to ensure that these individuals to receive treatment and services.

To promote public safety and increase the likelihood of successful reentry for inmates with mental illness, it is important to ensure that these individuals continue to receive treatment after release and that their treatment services are coordinated and tailored to their needs on an individual basis. Research has demonstrated that among prisoners with serious mental disorders, over 70 percent also have a substance abuse problem. Those with such co-occurring disorders need individualized treatment that addresses both substance abuse and mental health needs.

Importantly, whereas people with mental illness are no more likely to be violent than people in the general population, untreated mental illness (or mental illness and a co-occurring substance abuse disorder) is a strong predictor of recidivism. In Kansas, 67 percent of offenders with mental illnesses who were under community supervision were returned to prison for a condition violation within six months of their release, compared with about 40 percent of the total population released to supervision.

There are a number of promising programs and initiatives in the field that have improved outcomes for this population. In California, the Cornerstone Program provides housing and mental health services to adult homeless offenders coming out of Los Angeles County Jail who have a severe and persistent mental illness. Case managers also ensure that they receive mental health counseling and the medication they need, and that they are referred to substance abuse treatment programs if necessary. The program has shown significant reduction in the overall number of incarcerations and the number of days of incarceration occurring in its participant population. The Second Chance Act would support effective programs like this to improve outcomes for people with mental illness involved with the criminal justice system and ensure public safety.

Housing is another critical focus area. Helping people released from prisons or jails to find safe places to live is critical to reducing homelessness and crime and to ensuring stable housing situations for children, families, and neighbors of released prisoners. More than 10 percent of those coming in and out of prison and jails are homeless in the months before and after their incarceration. Research has shown that people who do not find stable housing in the community are more likely to recidivate.

There is not enough affordable housing to meet the demand of individuals in the general population who need it. Former prisoners comprise only a subset of the larger population in

need. Given the overwhelming demand for and limited supply of affordable housing and the stigma of having a criminal history, it is unrealistic that individuals released from prison or jail would be given priority access to affordable housing. At the same time, there are a number of statutory restrictions that exclude recently released individuals from accessing affordable housing.

The Second Chance Act's Demonstration Grants include allowable uses for housing, which could help expand programs like the Heritage Health and Housing which owns and operates three residences and leases scattered-site apartments in New York City and provides restorative services through a continuum of care, from 24-hour supervision to semi-independent living with counselor visits. The Heritage Heath and Housing program and others like it are critical to ensuring people leaving prisons and jails have access to safe and affordable housing arrangements, and that these people can become self sufficient and successfully reintegrate into the community.

The Second Chance Act represents a comprehensive plan to drastically change how we serve these men and women and keep our communities safe. Please support funding for the Second Chance Act's Adult and Juvenile Demonstration Grants in the upcoming fiscal year.

The safety and security association of the commercial explosives industry. Founded 1913

March 5, 2008

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY 2009 Appropriations for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME), I am submitting a statement for inclusion in the Subcommittee's hearing record regarding the proposed FY 2009 budget for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF).

Interest of the IME

The IME is the safety and security association of the commercial explosives industry. The production, distribution, storage and use of explosives are highly regulated. ATF is one of the agencies that play a primary role in assuring that explosives are identified, tracked, and stored only by authorized persons. The ability to manufacture, distribute and use these products safely and securely is critical to this industry. We have carefully reviewed the Administration's FY 2009 budget request for ATF and have the following comments about its impact on the commercial explosives industry.

Addressing Statutory Mandates

The commerce of explosives is one of the nation's most heavily regulated activities. As noted above, ATF plays a key role in this regulatory scheme through its implementation of Federal Explosives Law (FEL). Yet, ATF seems to have forgotten its statutory mandate to "protect interstate and foreign commerce" – which is the business of the commercial explosives industry – in its quest to be a lead terrorist/criminal agency.[1] ATF states that it is "dedicated to preventing terrorism, reducing violent crime, and protecting our Nation."[2] ATF's own data, however, suggests that commercial explosives are not a "preferred tool" of criminals or

[1] P.L. 91-452, Sec. 1101.
[2] ATF FY 2008 Budget Submission, page 1.

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terrorists.[3] While ATF claims to work "with ... industry members ... to make regulation less burdensome", the needs of the legitimate explosives industry are secondary to the agency's criminal enforcement interests.[4] By statute, ATF is supposed to "take into consideration ... the standards of safety and security recognized in the explosives industry" when issuing rules and requirements.[5] But, our recommendations are increasingly bypassed – we believe to the detriment of safety and security. Finally, we see ATF reaching out to regulate in areas that are not the Bureau's primary area of responsibility at a time when ATF is not keeping up with the responsibilities already on its plate. With this perspective, we offer the following comments on ATF's budget request and program performance.

Adequacy of Budget Resources

As contrasted with the FY 2008 budget justification, ATF's FY 2009 budget request does not disclose the level of funding slated for its explosives regulatory program. Last year, the amount was $63.6 million or 23 percent of its entire Arson and Explosives (A&E) budget.[6] Inasmuch as the FY 2009 budget request anticipates no increase to current services, we expect that the allocation to the explosives regulatory program is roughly the same or $62.5 million of the $267.2 million request for the A&E program.[7] While the budget request anticipates an increase of four FTE for the A&E program, the justification indicates that the revised FTE is only to maintain current services.[8] As discussed below, we are concerned that ATF has not directed additional FTE to address the regulatory needs of the commercial explosives industry. In this regard, we are particularly grateful for your leadership to call attention to the agency's regulatory backlog.[9] Absent a reprogramming of resources, however, the Bureau's ability to perform its regulatory functions in a timely manner is jeopardized.

Protect Commerce

Our industry relies on ATF to efficiently and effectively perform a number of functions to ensure that the legitimate commerce of explosives can go forward safely and unimpeded.[10] In this regard, we support all necessary resources for these essential services. However, the budget justification contains information suggesting that ATF will fall short of its three-year statutory

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[3] Over half of substances used in illegal bombing incidents are not regulated by ATF. Only 18 percent involve explosives subject to FEL requirements, and of these, 91 percent are common fireworks or components. "Implementation of the Safe Explosives Act", OIG, DOJ, Report Number I-2005-005, hereinafter "OIG Report," page 59.

[4] ATF FY 2009 Budget Submission, page 39.

[5] 18 U.S.C. 842(j).

[6] ATF FY 2008 Budget Submission, page 47 & 14, and ATF FY 2009 Budget Submission, Exhibit G: Crosswalk of 2008 Availability.

[7] ATF FY 2009 Budget Submission, page 39.

[8] ATF FY 2009 Budget Submission, Exhibit B.

[9] Conference Report – Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, H.R. 2764/Public Law 110-161, page 257, citing, "Open Rules.—The Appropriations Committees concur with language in the House Report regarding open rulemakings and the delay in resolving the rules due to staff shortages. The ATF to report within two months after enactment of this Act on the status of all open rules and the ATF's plans to address the backlog."

[10] These functions include the issuance of licenses to companies engaged in the manufacture, importation, and distribution of commercial explosives, and permits to those that purchase and receive these materials, background checks of certain employees of licensees and permittees, and regulations to ensure that commercial explosives are stored safely and securely. Additionally, when explosives are stolen, lost, or used for illegal purposes, we rely on the ATF to recover products and investigate incidents as necessary.

obligation to inspect 100 percent of its licensee/permittees as required by law.[11] We are also disappointed not to see a performance measure concerning investigation of explosives thefts.

Industry Standards

We take seriously the statutory obligation that ATF take into account industry's standards of safety when issuing rules and requirements. We have endeavored to fulfill this obligation through the development of industry best practices for safety and security, participation in relevant standard-setting organizations, and forums for training. We have offered ATF recommendations that we believe will enhance safety and security through participation in the rulemaking process, in the Bureau's research efforts, and in other standard setting activities. Our interface with ATF in these settings prompts the following comments.

- Rulemakings: Under the heading of "Explosives ... Regulatory Programs," ATF states that it has "issued three rulings."[12] Two of these three rulings apply to the explosives industry.[13] While we are appreciative of these rulings, they are interpretive statements of agency policy and should not be confused with regulatory activity conducted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Under the APA, ATF has six open rulemakings of interest and concern to the explosives industry, the same number of outstanding dockets as reported last year.[14] The oldest of these was proposed in 2001. Several are a result of the enactment of the 2002 Safe Explosives Act (SEA). Two of these rulemakings were issued as "interim final rules," which allows rules to be enforced without public input as to the effect of the rule on the regulated community. Subsequently, IME raised a number interpretative questions and concerns about these rules which are critical to the continued commerce of commercial explosives. Yet, ATF has delayed again the projected date for finalizing these rules until October 2008 and the projected dates for finalizing every other open rulemaking of significance to IME.

As noted above, Congress has directed the ATF to address these long-standing rulemaking concerns. Despite this fact, ATF has not requested additional staff to address its regulatory backlog or other pending requests for interpretive guidance and accommodations that are the day-to-day work of regulatory agencies. These regulatory tasks may be at odds with ATF's vision as a law enforcement agency, but they are critical to the lawful conduct of the commercial enterprises the Bureau controls.

Data: ATF is continuing efforts to enhance data capabilities. These efforts should be supported. We are only disappointed in one aspect. We rely on ATF's data collection and analysis capabilities. IME needs data about incidents and theft and losses to perfect our safety and security recommendations and practices. The latest full-year information we have about explosive incidents is from 2003. We urge the Subcommittee to ensure that ATF has the resources to gather and release this information in a timelier manner.

- IMESAFR: IME prides itself in being the safety and security advocates for the commercial explosives industry. The technical expertise of our members is a resource we gladly share with government agencies. In this regard, IME has spent years developing and validating a

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[11] ATF FY 2009 Budget Submission, page 48 and FN5.

[12] ATF FY 2009 Budget Submission, page 44.

[13] The rulings allow for the use of computer records under certain conditions and storage options for residual amounts of bulk-blasting agents.

[14] Semiannual Agenda, http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain (December 10, 2007).

credible alternative to strict interpretation of quantity-distance tables used to determine safe setback distances from explosives in collaboration the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board and Canadian and U.S. regulatory agencies, including ATF. The result is a windows-based computer model for assessing the risk from a variety of commercial explosives activities called IMESAFR.[15] Not only can IMESAFR determine the amount of risk presented, but it can also determine what factors drive the overall risk and what actions would lower risk, if necessary. The probability of events for the activities were based on the last 20 years experience in the U.S. and Canada and can be adjusted to account for different explosive sensitivities, additional security threats, and other factors that increase or decrease the base value. Following this effort, we expected that ATF would be willing to recognize this powerful assessment tool as an alternative for the regulated community to meet quantity-distance limitations, which limitations are themselves standards developed by the IME. However, this has not been the case. ATF has not taken advantage of opportunities to partner with IME and accept this risk-based approach to explosives safety. ATF's reluctance to recognize risk-based modeling is contrary to the norm practiced by all other federal agencies with regulatory responsibilities over the explosives industry. We believe that the consistency of risk analysis offered by IMESAFR is preferable to the haphazard "variance" approach ATF uses to address setback issues now.

Areas of Responsibility

ATF has used resources to venture into areas of regulatory authority that are not within its primary sphere of responsibility. In 2003, ATF chose to interpret FEL to give it authority to set clearance standards for workers involved in the transportation of commercial explosives. In 2005, there was a flurry of concern about the breadth of ATF security checklist documents that included standards for facility security such as surveillance, training, public and employee access, vehicle control, fencing and gates – areas of expertise reserved for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Since then ATF has advocated for authority or otherwise suggested a role to regulate ammonium nitrate and other easily purchased/unregulated materials used by terrorists in improvised explosive devices.[16]

While we respect ATF's expertise and authority to establish standards for explosives storage magazines, ATF's statutory authority does not reach to the security of ammonium nitrate or other explosive precursors.[17] Congress has tasked this responsibility to the DHS under its Chemical Facility Anti-terrorism Standards authority and through the enactment of the Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2007.[18] Many materials can be manipulated to produce an explosive effect. However, in their unadulterated state they will not explode.[19] DHS is far better positioned to address the range of issues raised by the prevalence of these precursor materials. According to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7, DHS is charged to identify, prioritize and coordinate protection of the nation's critical infrastructure, of which chemical manufacturing is one sector.[20] The Government Accountability Office, in a report on implementation of critical infrastructure programs, identifies no role for the ATF, or the Department of Justice, in

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15 IMESAFR was built on the DDESB's software model, SAFER. The DDESB currently uses SAFER and table-of-distance methods to approve or disapprove Department of Defense explosives activities.

16 ATF FY 2007 Budget Submission, pages 18, 21, 53, 54, 56 and 66. ATF FY 2008 Budget Submission, pages 6, 7, 44, 45, and 49. ATF FY 2009 Budget Submission, pages 7 and 45.

17 "Implementation of the Safe Explosives Act", OIG, DOJ, Report Number I-2005-005, page ii.

18 72 FR 17688 (April 9, 2007) & 72 FR 65396 (November 20, 2007) and. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, H.R. 2764/Public Law 110-161, sec. 563.

19 Containing the Threat from Illegal Bombings, NRC, 1998, page 130.

20 Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-7, paragraphs 13 & 15, December 17, 2003.

developing a national infrastructure protection plan or in guarding that infrastructure and its products.[21] IME supports chemical facility, hazardous materials transportation and ammonium nitrate security standards. However, we question ATF's involvement and attendant use of resources in these areas, when the Bureau consistently falls behind in its own vital regulatory responsibilities.

Performance Measure Improvements

For a number of years, IME has expressed concern about the lack of appropriate performance measures for the commercial explosives industry. Currently, ATF has three performance and two efficiency measures that apply to the commercial explosives industry.[22] Only one performance and one efficiency measure are directed at facilitating regulatory compliance. These measures are the number and percentage of explosives licensee/permittees that are inspected and the percent of perfected explosives applications acted on within 90 days. Yet, ATF is now proposing to delete the only efficiency measure applicable to the explosives industry because the "measure was never developed."[23] Not only should Congress direct the Bureau to restore and implement this measure, it should direct the agency to institute other measures of performance and efficiency for the explosives regulatory program. We have advocated for measures showing the number of background checks that ATF has performed, within what average timeframe, and of those, how many individuals failed to receive clearance, and of those, how many appealed the Bureau's findings; the number of rulemakings outstanding and their priority; turnover rates among agents and inspectors; and the number of individuals from which agencies that are trained through ATF programs. Absent information of this type, it is unclear how Congress can effectively oversee ATF's explosives operations and determine the adequacy of its budget request.

Leadership

The ATF has been without a director since August 2006. Director-designee Michael J. Sullivan has served with distinction for nearly a year. He came at a particularly challenging time and has overseen the agency's move to its new headquarters. We believe the Bureau has been too long without permanent leadership and we urge Congress to promptly act on this nomination.

Conclusion

The manufacture and distribution of explosives is accomplished with a remarkable degree of safety and security. We recognize the important role played by ATF in helping our industry achieve and maintain safe and secure workplaces. Industry and the public trust that ATF has the resources to fulfill its regulatory responsibilities. It is up to Congress and, in particular, this Subcommittee to ensure that ATF has the resources it needs. We strongly recommend full funding for ATF's explosives program.

Respectfully,

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[21] Agency Plans, Implementation, and Challenges Regarding the National Strategy for Homeland Security, January 2005, GAO-05-33, pages 18, 47, 78 and 133.

[22] ATF FY 2009 Budget Submission, page 49.

[23] ATF FY 2009 Budget Submission, page 49.

Cynthia Hilton
Executive Vice President

Testimony for the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
Congressman Dean Heller
Second District of Nevada

A tragic death that took place in my District early this year highlights the need for Congress to support the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Specifically, I request that the Subcommittee fully fund the DOJ's DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program at the authorized level of $151 million.

As many of my colleagues know from national news reports, nineteen-year-old Brianna Denison was abducted, strangled to death, and left in a vacant field in southeast Reno. Based on DNA evidence, law enforcement determined that Brianna's murder was the work of a serial offender linked to several other attacks in the Reno area.

But like a majority of states, Nevada has experienced a significant backlog in DNA processing. At the time of Brianna's murder, more than 3,000 samples were waiting to be processed in Nevada alone. Local law enforcement petitioned the Reno community for donations that would enable them to expedite processing of samples collected as part of Brianna's case and tackle the statewide backlog. Nevadans responded en force, contributing nearly $300,000 to eliminate the backlog of DNA samples in our state.

This significant outpouring of support demonstrates the American people's commitment to fighting crime through DNA technology. Congress should take this opportunity to mirror the priorities of those we represent. In an age where DNA technology has the potential to solve previously unsolvable crimes and quickly put violent offenders behind bars, there is no excuse for failing to equip law enforcement agencies with the tools and personnel they need to quickly process DNA.

Few investments could be more important to effective law enforcement in the 21st century. The national DNA database has made matches or otherwise aided in more than 51,000 cases since its inception. While the DNA of Brianna's killer was unfortunately not detected as Nevada's samples were processed in recent months, it is quite possible that the DNA of Brianna's killer is backlogged in another state. Also worth noting is the fact that Nevada law enforcement was able to link 30 unsolved cases to known offenders as a result of eliminating our state's DNA backlog. Assuming a similar success rate nationwide, hundreds – if not thousands – of criminals could be put behind bars if law enforcement could process all DNA samples on hand. Thousands of victims and families whose cases are currently unsolved could find closure.

And make no mistake: this is a nationwide problem. While the number of outstanding DNA samples is constantly in flux, the National Institute of Justice tells us that hundreds of thousands of samples need to be processed nationwide, including an estimated 11,000 samples in Wyoming, 10,000 in Virginia, 10,000 in Indiana, 5,000 in Colorado, and 3,000 in Idaho.

All these facts have resulted in my advocacy for the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. As my colleagues are aware, this program awards grants to state and local law enforcement agencies to carry out DNA analysis, increase laboratory capacity, and collect DNA samples from violent offenders required to do so by law. Like many states, Nevada has passed legislation mandating DNA sample collection from offenders, but tight state budgets have prevented state funds from being appropriated for this purpose. Therefore, maintaining proper funding for the federal program is critical to state and local law enforcement.

While Congress has consistently funded this program in recent years, the program has yet to be fully funded at its authorized level. Providing $151 million for this program would give a tremendous boost to law enforcement, guaranteeing resources to process new samples, clear out the current backlog, and prevent the current backlog from getting worse.

Ensuring that all crime-related DNA samples are entered in the nationwide database makes every community in every district safer. As you are probably aware, I coauthored a letter with Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) urging this Subcommittee to fully fund the DOJ's DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program. Twenty-seven Members of Congress signed this letter, and on behalf of those colleagues – on both sides of the aisle – I encourage this Subcommittee to provide proper funding for this initiative. Supporting appropriations to relieve the backlog of hundreds of thousands of DNA samples nationwide tells law enforcement that Congress supports their crime-fighting efforts with the best technology available, and shows the American people our commitment to taking violent criminals off our streets. I strongly encourage the full funding of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program and look forward to working with my colleagues on the Subcommittee to make this request a reality.

Testimony for the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
Congressman Dean Heller
Second District of Nevada

A tragic death that took place in my District early this year highlights the need for Congress to support the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Specifically, I request that the Subcommittee fully fund the DOJ's DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program at the authorized level of $151 million.

As many of my colleagues know from national news reports, nineteen-year-old Brianna Denison was abducted, strangled to death, and left in a vacant field in southeast Reno. Based on DNA evidence, law enforcement determined that Brianna's murder was the work of a serial offender linked to several other attacks in the Reno area.

But like a majority of states, Nevada has experienced a significant backlog in DNA processing. At the time of Brianna's murder, more than 3,000 samples were waiting to be processed in Nevada alone. Local law enforcement petitioned the Reno community for donations that would enable them to expedite processing of samples collected as part of Brianna's case and tackle the statewide backlog. Nevadans responded en force, contributing nearly $300,000 to eliminate the backlog of DNA samples in our state.

This significant outpouring of support demonstrates the American people's commitment to fighting crime through DNA technology. Congress should take this opportunity to mirror the priorities of those we represent. In an age where DNA technology has the potential to solve previously unsolvable crimes and quickly put violent offenders behind bars, there is no excuse for failing to equip law enforcement agencies with the tools and personnel they need to quickly process DNA.

Few investments could be more important to effective law enforcement in the 21st century. The national DNA database has made matches or otherwise aided in more than 51,000 cases since its inception. While the DNA of Brianna's killer was unfortunately not detected as Nevada's samples were processed in recent months, it is quite possible that the DNA of Brianna's killer is backlogged in another state. Also worth noting is the fact that Nevada law enforcement was able to link 30 unsolved cases to known offenders as a result of eliminating our state's DNA backlog. Assuming a similar success rate nationwide, hundreds – if not thousands – of criminals could be put behind bars if law enforcement could process all DNA samples on hand. Thousands of victims and families whose cases are currently unsolved could find closure.

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American Society of Agronomy | Crop Science Society of America | Soil Science Society of America
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Karl Glasener
Director of Science Policy
American Society of Agronomy
Crop Science Society of America
Soil Science Society of America

March 28, 2008 —BY E-mail to CJ.Approp@mail.house.gov

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-310 Capitol Hill Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510
Attention: Tracey Laturner

RE: FY09 Appropriations—Support for National Science Foundation

Dear Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and Members of the Subcommittee:

The **American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America (ASA-CSSA-SSSA)** are pleased to submit the following funding recommendations for FY 2009 (FY09). ASA-CSSA-SSSA understand the challenges the House Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee faces with the tight science budget for FY09. We also recognize that the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill has many valuable and necessary components, and we applaud the efforts of the Subcommittee to fund critical research through the National Science Foundation (NSF). ASA-CSSA-SSSA recommend the Subcommittee increase funding for NSF in FY09 by 21% over FY 2008 (FY08) to $7.326 billion, the funding level authorized by America Competes Act (ACI).

With more than 25,000 members and practicing professionals, ASA-CSSA-SSSA are the largest life science professional societies in the United States dedicated to the agronomic, crop and soil sciences. ASA-CSSA-SSSA play a major role in promoting progress in these sciences through the publication of quality journals and books, convening meetings and workshops, developing educational, training, and public information programs, providing scientific advice to inform public policy, and promoting ethical conduct among practitioners of agronomy and crop and soil sciences.

Biological Sciences Directorate
Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB)
The Molecular and Cellular Biosciences division of NSF Biology directorate provides funding for critical research that contributes to the fundamental understanding of life processes at the molecular, subcellular, and cellular levels. Programs such as the

Microbial Observatories increase the understanding of microbial distribution in a variety of ecosystems- the first step in evaluating microbial impact on ecosystem function. ASA-CSSA-SSSA support the proposed increase for MCB to $126.00 million, yet, disagree with the proposed change in priorities. Historically, the division focused on understanding living networks and complex molecular and cellular systems, microbial biology, and fundamental plant biology research. However, priorities for FY09 focus on metagenomics, theoretical and mathematical modeling, synthetic biology, small RNA biology, and the role of intracellular environment on the dynamic structure and function of complex biomolecules. We agree that considerable advances investigating interactions between microbial communities and plants have been made, however critical gaps do remain requiring additional study to understand the complex, dynamic relationships existing between plant and microbial communities.

Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS)

The emergence of a bioeconomy requires greater reliance on plants and crops, further expanding their use into the energy sector. To meet the increased demands and develop more robust crops, additional fundamental understanding regarding the basic biology of these crops is needed. The ***Plant Genome Research Program*** (PGRP) accomplishes these objectives by supporting key NSF projects. The *Developing Country Collaborations in Plant Genome Research* program links US researchers with partners from developing countries to solve problems of mutual interest in agriculture and energy and the environment. Additionally, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the ***Plant Genome Research Program*** has financed the *Maize Genome Sequencing Project* – a sequencing project for one of the most important crop grown globally. Finally, the *International Rice Genome Sequencing Project,* published in 2005 the finished DNA blueprint for rice, a crop fundamental to populations worldwide. To continue the discovery of new innovative ways to enhance crop production for a growing population, sustained funding is needed for similar projects. It is therefore critical the FY09 decision to transfer the ***Plant Genome Research Program*** to IOS does not adversely impact PGRP. ASA-CSSA-SSSA are concerned that dedicated funding for the ***Plant Genome Research Program*** may be directed towards other programs, such as the ***Arabadopsis 2010 Program.*** ASA-CSSA-SSSA recommend that the ***Plant Genome Research Program*** continue to receive the funding intended for it. To ensure adequate funding for all of the programs under IOS, we recommend that it receive an overall 10% increase to $220.86 million.

Emerging Frontiers (EF)

The Emerging Frontiers division supports multidisciplinary research opportunities and networking activities whereby new initiatives will be fostered and subsequently integrated into core programs. The ***Plant Science Cyberinfrastructure Collaborative*** is a critical program funded under EF. Established in FY08, this center establishes multi-disciplinary teams of computational science experts and plant science experts to address evolving critical questions in plant science. ASA-CSSA-SSSA offer full support for the President's proposed $2.48 million increase (37.4%) over FY08 funding levels for the ***Plant Science Cyberinfrastructure Collaborative.***

Geological Sciences Directorate
Atmospheric Sciences (ATM)
Changes in terrestrial systems will have great impact on biogeochemical cycling rates. The Atmospheric Sciences division funds critical programs, such as ***Atmospheric Chemistry***, that increase understanding of biogeochemical cycles. Soils and plants make up one of the largest sinks and sources for several environmentally important elements. ASA-CSSA-SSSA support the President's proposed 13.6% increase in funding for the Atmospheric Science division to $260.58 million.

Earth Sciences (EAR)
The Earth Sciences division supports research emphasizing improved understanding of the structure, composition, and evolution of the Earth, the life it supports, and the processes that govern the formation behavior of the Earth's materials. FY09 priorities will support theoretical research, including the biological geosciences, the hydrologic sciences, and the study of natural hazards. Important programs funded within this division are the ***Critical Zone Observatories***, which focus on watershed scale studies that advance understanding of the integration and coupling of Earth surface processes as mediated by the presence and flux of fresh water. ASA-CSSA-SSSA support the $750,000 increase to this project.

Engineering Directorate
Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental and Transport Systems (CBET)
CBET supports research that enhances the protection of U.S. national health, energy, environment, security, and wealth. CBET supports programs, such as the ***Biotechnology, Biochemical, and Biomass Engineering,*** which offer critical solutions to global environmental problems associated with climate change. The continual funding of the ***Biotechnology, Biochemical, and Biomass Engineering*** program is essential if we are to develop genetically engineered biofuel feedstocks that are more feasible for conversion into biofuels. ASA-CSSA-SSSA agree with the President's recommend $42.34 million increase for CBET to $173.34 million in FY 2009.

Directorate for Education and Human Resources
Division of Graduate Education
ASA-CSSA-SSSA are dedicated to the enhancement of education, and concerned about recent declines in enrollment for these sciences. To remain competitive, scientific fields need to find new, innovative ways to reach students. The programs offered in the Education and Human Resource Directorate accomplish this goal. The ***Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education*** offers graduate students interested in teaching, an opportunity to get into the classroom and teach utilizing new innovative ways of teaching the material. ASA-CSSA-SSSA support the $2.0 million increase to $49.0 million in the President's budget for this program, but request a 10% increase over FY08 funding levels to $51.7 million. Graduate students are the next crop of scientists, therefore opportunities for study must be increased with increasing demands of science. Global problems rely on scientific discovery for their amelioration; therefore it is critical that the U.S. continue to be a leader in graduate education. The ASA-CSSA-SSSA recommend an increase to the ***Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeships (IGERT)*** from no change

from FY08 to an increased level of $30.0 million (20% increase) in FY09. Education is the key for our future competitiveness; therefore it is essential increases in education funding remain on par with goals set forth by ACI, so ASA-CSSA-SSSA recommend an overall increase of 15% in FY09 over FY08 to $832.44 million.

Division of Undergraduate Education
Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program focuses on the education of technicians for the high-technology fields that drive our nation's economy. We support continued funding for this program. ASA-CSSA-SSSA recommend that this program receive a 20% increase over FY08 to $62 million in FY 2009.

NSF-Wide Programs
Dynamics of Water Processes in the Environment
Providing an adequate supply and quantity of water for human use, while maintaining the integrity of natural ecosystems, is one of the greatest challenges facing the country. ASA-CSSA-SSSA support the creation of the multi-disciplinary, muli-scale research program, ***Dynamics of Water Processes in the Environment*** with $10.0 million in FY 2009.

Climate Change Science Program
The Climate Change Science Program, initiated in 2002, provides the Nation and the world with the science-based knowledge to predict, change, manage risk, and take advantage of opportunities resulting from climate change and climate variability. Biological systems are critical to mitigating the impacts and effects of climate change. Additional research is needed to examine potential crop systems, plant traits, wetland properties, and other ecosystem adaptations to help manage climate change. The basic sciences of agro-ecosystems, plant improvement, soils, and riparian and wetland ecology need support. Therefore while ASA-CSSSA-SSSSA maintain the importance of the President's proposed increase to CCSP funding to $220.6 million in FY09; however additional funding is needed for the Biological Sciences. Therefore, ASA-CSSSA-SSSA recommend a 10% increase in the current funding level from BIO to $16.6 million.

As you lead the Congress in deliberation on funding levels for agricultural research and conservation, please consider **American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America** as supportive resources. We hope you will call on our membership and scientific expertise whenever the need arises.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our requests. For additional information or to learn more about the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America (ASA-CSSA-SSSA), please visit www.agronomy.org, www.crops.org or www.soils.org or contact ASA-CSSA-SSSA Director of Science Policy Karl Glasener (kglasener@agronomy.org, kglasener@crops.org, or kglasener@soils.org).

Official Testimony for the Record
For the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Submitted by John Watson, Ph.D.
President, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
and
Jennifer Ayers, MPA
Executive Director, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
Date: April 18, 2008

Madam Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:
The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony to advocate for funding vital to research initiatives of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). AIMBE was founded in 1991 to establish a clear and comprehensive identity for the field of medical and biological engineering - which is the bridge between the principles of engineering science and practice, and the creation of the medical and biological technologies used in healthcare. AIMBE represents 50,000 individuals and organizations throughout the U.S., including major healthcare companies, academic research institutions and high-level engineers, scientists and clinicians whose research and developments have touched the lives and health of most all Americans.

AIMBE applauds the support of this committee in the past to provide funding to NSF and NIST, however, believes adequate funding is necessary to further ensure America remains competitive. We therefore ask for your support of the funding levels for these important agencies as outlined in the America COMPETES Act. Therefore, AIMBE makes the following recommendations:

1. AIMBE supports the American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI), and its recommendation to double the NSF's budget over the course of ten years. After relatively flat funding, it is imperative that the prescribed budget increase remain on track. Similarly, NIST budget setbacks in FY07 and FY08 necessitate a substantial increase in to meet the ACI goals. Both these institutions support the basic research that allow for the next generation of innovations.

2. AIMBE supports continued and additional investment in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program through NSF and increased funding of the Technology Innovation Program (TIP) at NIST. In medical and biological engineering especially, small businesses willing to participate in high risk innovation research spur the creation of new healthcare technologies. However, small businesses are unable invest their limited capitol in high-risk – and potentially no- or low-reward innovation research initiatives without government support in the form of federal funds and grant opportunities. Investment in small

businesses stimulates both local and national economies by creating new products, processes and services, new jobs and potentially life saving and life enhancing new technologies.

3. Finally, AIMBE encourages strong collaboration across agencies so that basic engineering research can translate to innovations. Medical and biological engineering is an interdisciplinary field, drawing from basic research from biomechanics to computing to nanotechnology to cell biology. Opportunities exist through inter-agency cooperation and through public-private partnerships which take advantage of government and private sector resources to conduct research which, without such partnership, would have been too costly for either the government or the private sector to engage in alone.

The Role of Basic Engineering Research

Advances in basic engineering research, in a variety of fields, allow for advances in technological innovation. Medical and biological engineering draws from basic research across disciplines, bringing together innovative teams to create unique solutions to the most pressing health problems.

For example, the insulin pump is the result of multi-disciplinary effort for better management of diabetes which reduces serious and costly side effects such as cardiovascular disease, stroke, liver and kidney damage, and neuropathy. These pumps enable some diabetic patients to live more normal lives as productive members of society. As a result, there are fewer absences from work and reduced health care costs.

Basic engineering research in human physiology, specifically in range of motion and function, has increased the innovation capacity for artificial limbs. The decreasing mortality and increasing number of disabled war veterans highlights the need for more useful prosthetics. Basic engineering research has taken the strapped wooden leg to a realistic synergic leg and foot transtibial prosthetic that employs advanced biomechanics in allowing a more full range of motion, even running. Basic engineering research in polymers and materials science has changed the feel and look of prosthetic limbs so that they no longer so easily discernable and can last longer.

Basic engineering research has led to innovative imaging technologies such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultra-fast computerized tomography (CT scan). These technologies facilitate early detection of disease and dysfunction, allowing for earlier treatment and slowing the progression of disease. Innovative diagnostics such as these reduce the acute costs of healthcare.

The roles of NSF and NIST in basic engineering research are vital to the innovations of tomorrow. The discoveries funded by these two organizations directly benefit society by returning productive members of society to their lives and jobs. Increasing funding for NSF and NIST will increase basic engineering research which in turn will lead to more technological innovations. Basic engineering research, though developed by industry, is not performed by industry due to the high risks involved. The government needs to

continue to fund the vital research institutions such as NSF and NIST to continue to be a leader in the global arena, leading to innovative product growth and creating new jobs.

Increasing Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Grants
Small innovative medical and biological engineering businesses thrive on pushing the boundaries of science and medicine to take risks that large biotechnology companies are unwilling to attempt. AIMBE supports the NSF and DOE SBIR grants as vital to this function. Many of greatest innovations come from these small businesses; start-up companies that bear the risk of a disruptive technology, product or service. Due to the high risk involved, start-up companies often have a difficult time attracting venture capitalists. Government support is necessary for these companies to cross the valley of death for proof-of-concept and feasibility to manufacturer. These small businesses also address issues concerning health disparities, such as drugs for third world diseases, genetic tests, home tests, and low-cost diagnostics, that are not profitable for larger medical and biological companies to pursue. Continuing to strengthen the SBIR program at NSF will allow more innovative technologies and service to enter healthcare.

Increasing Long-term, High risk Investment
The COMPETES Act recently created the Technology Innovation Program (TIP) replaces the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) under NIST's jurisdiction. AIMBE supports the creation of a program to support high risk, high reward basic research. Like SBIR grants, these types of grants support small start up companies at the "gap funding" stage. This manner of competitive federal support is important to young medical and biological engineering companies.

An ATP partnership with Sangamo BioSciences led to the development of zinc finger technology that may have wide applications in gene therapy for various diseases. Sangamo can design and engineer zinc finger proteins (ZFPs) to bind to sequences in a target gene. ZFP transcription factors can regulate the target gene up or down. ZFPs can be engineered with a DNA-cutting domain to generate zinc finger nucleases or ZFNs. A ZFN causes the gene to be cut near the binding site triggering a natural repair process. ZFP therapeutics have the potential to be developed as pharmaceutical products to treat disease through the regulation or modification of disease-related genes in human patients.

Metabolix, Inc., partnered with ATP to investigate high performance biodegradable plastics by radically reengineering the metabolic process of *E. coli*. These altered bacterium would be able to take sugars from renewable resources and convert them into useful biodegradable plastics. This endeavor received the U.S. Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award in 2005 and is now in the process of scaling up into manufacturing.

ATP partnered with Molecular Tool, Inc., later bought by Orchid Biosciences, to create integrated micro-fabricated devices for DNA typing. This pioneering technology reduced the time required for DNA analysis by 75% and the cost by 70% and was used in the aftermath of the World Trade Centers attack to help identify victims. This method of

DNA analysis reduced the analysis time for DNA samples from four to five weeks to five business days.

Emphasizing Collaboration between Agencies
Science is increasingly becoming interconnected, necessitating collaboration between government agencies. Many recent innovations greatly benefited from the discoveries in field that may have initially seemed unrelated. AIMBE recognizes that the future of medical and biological engineering is greatly dependent on the ability of various science agencies to communicate discoveries and information. We believe the INTERMACS registry, managed by NIH, FDA and CMS, provides a prototype for federal agency joint leadership working together for optimizing the introduction of a medical engineering technology in to clinical practice. Federal agency cooperation and joint leadership will be critical to meeting the goals of the ACI.

The Future of Medical and Biological Engineering
AIMBE supports the increase in funding for NSF and NIST per the America Competitiveness Imitative. Doubling the funding for NSF and increasing NIST and DOE funding to meet the goals of ACI will help America remain a global leader in medical and biological engineering.

American Chemical Society
Adam J. Schmidt, Legislative Associate

Public Testimony
on the
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

March 27, 2008

The American Chemical Society (ACS) appreciates the opportunity to submit public testimony to the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee on the fiscal year 2009 budget for the National Science Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The ACS is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization, chartered by Congress in 1937, with more than 160,000 chemical scientists and engineers as members. The world's largest scientific society, ACS advances the chemical enterprise, increases public understanding of chemistry and science, and brings its expertise to bear on state and national matters.

Investments in NIST advanced research, measurement methods, and standards are vital to American industry as well as the nation's economic competitiveness and security. Increased funding is necessary to meet ongoing private sector needs for NIST measurements and standards, as well as the growing needs in homeland security, advanced manufacturing, climate, and nanotechnology. America's future competitiveness will be enhanced through sustained, predictable federal investments in science agencies like NIST.

Specifically, the ACS urges Congress to support the $634 million funding level (5.5 percent increase over FY 2008) for the NIST core programs as outlined in the president's FY 2009 budget request. While this falls short of the level authorized to enhance U.S innovation and competitiveness in the America COMPETES Act passed last summer with overwhelming bipartisan support, we hope that Congress will strive to return to this funding blueprint over time. Additionally, the ACS supports the $535 million request for NIST laboratories (21.3 percent increase over FY 2008). However, we strongly dissent from the proposed termination of the Technology Innovation Program (TIP) and urge Congress to fund the program at its authorized level of $131.5 million.

NIST Laboratories

NIST laboratories serve as the technological nerve center for countless products and services across industries. By advancing research and extremely accurate measurement technology, NIST enables universal quality-control technologies that undergird industrial productivity, efficiency improvements, and faster product development. NIST also plays a critical role in advancing

public health and safety, environmental progress, and national security. For example, NIST's calibration and related measurement methods are critical in areas such as emission control, fuel-composition control, laser eye surgery, smoke-detector sensitivity, electricity-meter readings, energy-efficiency measurement, and the operation of fiber optics. The ACS strongly supports the $535 million request for NIST laboratories.

However, we remain concerned that recent cuts in standards-related programs have hampered NIST's ability to promote U.S. standards and to facilitate global trade. Without NIST's consensus-based measurement standards, companies would be less innovative, less efficient, and less competitive. Independent studies show that every dollar invested in NIST measurement and standards returns at least three dollars in national economic benefit.

Additionally, the ACS supports the request for $99 million for NIST facilities. These funds support facility improvements and acquisition of cutting-edge equipment in Boulder, Colorado, and Gaithersburg, Maryland. In previous years, in excess of $100 million was used annually to support projects peripheral to the NIST mission. As a result, NIST facilities are suffering to the point of becoming ineffective for cutting-edge research.

Technology Innovation Program

The ACS continues to support NIST's Technology Innovation Program (TIP), established to support, promote, and accelerate innovation in the United States through high-risk, high-reward research in areas of critical national need. This program enables small- and medium-sized businesses to work in joint ventures and with universities to commercialize high-risk technologies. Without this program, the U.S. would continue to be at a global competitive disadvantage if these businesses, the traditional incubators of innovation, could not pursue high-risk opportunities. ACS strongly opposes the administration's proposed termination of TIP. We urge Congress to fully fund TIP (as was the practice to restore funding to the Advanced Technology Program—TIP's predecessor) at the $131.5 million level authorized by the America COMPETES Act (PL 110-69) for FY 2009.

COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION

Official Written Testimony for Fiscal Year 2009
Submitted to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Submitted By
Coastal States Organization
Kristen Fletcher, Executive Director
March 24, 2008

The Coastal States Organization (CSO) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that represents the interests of the Governors of the 35 coastal states, territories and commonwealths in Washington, DC. Established in 1970, CSO focuses on legislative and policy issues relating to the sound management of coastal, Great Lakes, and ocean resources and is recognized as the trusted representative of the collective interests of the coastal states on coastal and ocean management. For fiscal year 2009, CSO supports the following coastal programs and funding levels within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):

Coastal Zone Management Program (§§306/306A/309)	$90 million
Coastal Nonpoint Program	$10 million
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	$42 million
Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection	$60 million
Coral Reef Conservation	$31.5 million
Community Assistance Grants	$30 million
Coastal Zone Management Act Administration	$8.5 million
Coastal Services Center	$56 million
CICEET	$7.3 million

Though funding does not reflect it, the oceans and coasts provide an irreplaceable contribution to our nation's economy and quality of life. Even though the coastal zone makes up only 17% of the land area of the United States, 53% of the nation's population lives there. The annual economic activity for the ocean is in excess of $117 billion dollars and two million jobs. In recent years, employment growth along the coasts was nearly three times population growth. Our ocean and coasts are not just places we enjoy; they are a vital part of our nation's economy.

However, as a result of their increasing draw and economic vitality, we are loving our coasts to death: an increasing number of users along our coasts and in our oceans results in conflicts. This demand on coastal resources combined with natural hazards such as sea level rise, hurricanes and other flooding events and the evidence shows that coastal communities and the US as a whole are in danger of losing these invaluable assets. Despite the difficult budgetary times, we need to

provide more funding and support for the key programs that are on the front lines of this daily battle, the programs utilizing the advances in coastal and ocean science, research, and technology to ***manage*** our coastal and ocean resources for future generations.

Programs that are engaged in these important efforts and working to balance the protection of coastal and ocean resources with the need for sustainable development include the Coastal Zone Management Program, Coastal Nonpoint Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve System, Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Program, Coral Reef Conservation Program, and the Community Assistance Grants. These programs reside within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and provide ***direct*** funding or services to the states and territories, which account for a small portion of the total NOAA federal budget. The funding for these programs is very cost-effective, as these grants are matched by the states and are used to leverage significantly more private and local investment in our nation's coastal areas. Increased funding for these programs that provide on-the-ground services to our local communities and citizens is well worth the investment.

Coastal Zone Management Program (§§306/306A/309)

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), NOAA and the states partner to implement coastal zone management programs designed to balance protection of coastal and ocean resources with the need for sustainable development of coastal communities. States have the flexibility to develop programs, policies and strategies that are targeted to their state priorities while advancing national goals. Under the CZMA program, the states receive grants from NOAA that are matched by the states and are used to leverage significantly more private and local investment in our nation's coastal areas. These grants have been used to reduce water pollution, help local communities plan for growth, provide public access to the coasts, and help assess the potential impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

CSO requests that these grants be funded at a level of ***$90 million dollars***, an amount that will be shared among the 34 states and territories that have approved CZM programs. Ninety million dollars equates to approximately 69 cents for each person living in the coastal zone. The price of a soda is a reasonable price to pay to help protect our nation's coastal resources and communities.

CSO supports a competitive grant program, but urges that any competitive program be established through new funding and not by cutting current core funds to the states, territories and Great Lakes. To have the most effective and efficient coastal management programs, of the $90 million requested, at least $70 million should be provided for core program funding and $20 million for competitive funding. The competitive funding can prepare communities for sea level rise, hurricanes and other flooding events as well as promote collaboration on regional priorities.

Coastal Nonpoint Pollution (CZARA §6217)

Nonpoint pollution is one of the most pressing problems along the coasts as it causes closures of beaches and shellfish beds and damages public health and coastal economies.

Given the seriousness of these problems, it is critical to fund the coastal nonpoint program under the CZMA.

With these funds, projects are designed to reduce runoff from urban areas, agriculture, and marinas. These reductions are accomplished by restoring wetlands, partnering with local governments, and funding the very popular clean marina programs, where private marinas voluntarily exceed regulatory legal requirements to obtain a certification as a clean marina. It is critical that coastal nonpoint funding under the CZMA be restored and increased to ***$10 million dollars***. The elimination of funding to these grants leaves states and territories with an unfunded mandate and our coastal water quality in jeopardy.

National Estuarine Research Reserves

Under the CZMA, a network of protected areas was created called the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). The Reserve System is a network of 27 reserves throughout the country that collectively protect over one million acres of habitat in 22 states and territories. Through an effective partnership between NOAA and coastal states, this Reserve System plays a critical role in sustaining the nation's estuaries and coastal communities and providing essential research, educational and stewardship opportunities.

Accomplishments of the Reserve System include promoting scientific research on estuaries to improve our ability to understand, manage, and restore these vital habitats; monitoring water quality and weather in estuaries around the country through the system-wide monitoring program, which is an element of the Integrated Ocean Observing System; educating thousands of K-12 students and teachers about estuaries each year; and training coastal decision makers in best practices of coastal management.

CSO requests ***$27 million*** for the Reserve System to operate their sites, including their research, education, and stewardship programs. CSO requests ***$15 million*** for Reserve System construction and acquisition to maintain, upgrade, and construct reserve facilities, and acquire priority lands. Federal funds received by the Reserve System are matched with state funds.

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

Authorized by Congress in 2002, CELCP protects coastal and estuarine areas with significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values. To date, Congress has appropriated over $200 million for CELCP, allowing for the completion of over 100 conservation projects, with several dozen still in progress. CELCP projects in 26 of the nation's 35 coastal states have already helped preserve close to 35,000 acres of some of America's greatest coastal treasures, and that total continues to grow as projects are completed. All federal funding has been leveraged by at least an equal amount of state, local, and private investments. CSO requests ***$60 million*** for the CELCP program.

Coral Reef Conservation

Coral reefs are perhaps the most amazing marine ecosystems on the planet. The biological diversity of coral reefs is astounding. Even though they make up only one tenth of one percent of the ocean floor, they provide habitat to over 25% of marine

species. They also are important economic assets to the nation and local communities because they provide habitat for fisheries, protection from coastal storms, and support an active tourism industry.

The stewards of America's coral reef are comprised of two states: Hawai'i and Florida and the five territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and America Samoa. As members of the US Coral Reef Task Force, these states and territories worked in partnership with federal agencies to develop Local Action Strategies (LAS). The LAS initiative was specifically designed to help increase and link the goals and objectives of the U.S. National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs (2000) with locally driven priorities and actions. The LAS are locally-driven, short range roadmaps for collaborative and cooperative action among Federal, state, territory, and non-governmental partners. The LAS identify and implement priority projects to reduce key threats to valuable coral reef ecosystems in each region. These are examples of government integrated at the federal, state and local levels and they need additional resources for implementation. The coastal states and territories are requesting funding of ***$31.5 million*** to advance the local strategies that represent the most effective partnerships for protecting corals.

Community Assistance Grants
CSO also supports the Community Assistance Grants under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Over 80% of the land use decisions in the coastal zone are made at the local level, but local governments often lack the resources or technical capacity to address the myriad of issues of coastal management. This new funding will meet the growing need for the states to work with local communities to provide technical assistance and direct assistance to assist the local communities to address coastal priorities, such as mitigating coastal hazards, redeveloping waterfronts, and developing community growth plans. CSO requests a funding level of ***$30 million*** to provide on-the-ground assistance to local communities.

These key programs are provided technical assistance and support by other valuable NOAA programs including:

CZMA Administration
NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRMS) partners with the states on the administration of the Coastal Zone Management Program, the Coastal Nonpoint Program, the Reserve System, CELCP, the Coral Reef Conservation Program, and the Marine Protected Areas Center. To administer all of these nation-wide programs in partnership with the states take resources and much-needed capacity. CSO requests $8.5 million for OCRM.

Coastal Services Center
The Coastal Services Center (CSC) in Charleston, South Carolina provides technical services to the coastal states. The mission of CSC is to support the environmental, social, and economic well being of the coast by linking people, information, and technology. CSC is also the NOAA lead on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the Coastal Storms

Initiative, and the Coastal Observation Technology System. CSO requests $56 million for all of the services CSC provides to the coastal states and territories.

CICEET

The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) is a national center for the development and application of innovative technologies for monitoring, managing, and preventing contamination of estuarine and coastal resources. It directly supports science-to-management partnerships and technology development to meet specific state coastal management and Reserve System research priorities. Under the President's budget, the elimination of CICEET and reallocation of that funding to a competitive grant program under the Reserve System, serving to decrease overall funding to the Reserve Program, is a disservice to both programs and the necessary services they provide our nation's coasts. CSO requests $7.3 million for CICEET.

CSO greatly appreciates the support the Subcommittee has provided in the past. Its support has assisted these programs in working together to protect our coasts and sustain local communities. We hope you will take our requests into consideration as you move forward in the FY 2009 appropriations process.

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PENOBSCOT RIVER RESTORATION TRUST

Written testimony
from Laura Rose Day, Executive Director of
the Penobscot River Restoration Trust, Maine
to the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
April 15, 2008

The Penobscot River Restoration Trust, a not-for-profit organization whose members include the Penobscot Indian Nation and six conservation organizations, respectfully seeks your support for the request from Congressmen Michaud (ME-02) and Allen (ME-01) for $5,000,000 from the NOAA Fisheries Habitat Restoration Center for the restoration of the Penobscot River.

The Penobscot River Restoration Project is a nationally significant, large-scale, private-public collaboration to vastly improve migratory access to nearly 1,000 miles of historic habitat for sea-run fish. Working together, industry, the Penobscot Indian Nation, state and federal government, conservation groups and a diversity of public and private interests seek to restore the nation's last, struggling runs of Atlantic salmon and 10 other species of sea-run fish to the Penobscot River. The project is designed to both maintain hydropower generation and restore native sea run fisheries, with benefits to fish, people and wildlife throughout the river ecosystem to the sea.

To date, more than $10 million in private funds and $15 million in public funds (NOAA, USFWS) have been raised for dam purchase. The Penobscot Trust aims to exercise its option to purchase the dams as soon as possible, then implement the project by removing two dams and installing a fish bypass around a third as key steps to open up access to key fisheries habitat.

Fully implemented, the Penobscot project will provide broad benefits for fish, wildlife and people. A 2004 National Academy of Sciences report specifically mentioned the Penobscot Project as a key step towards restoring endangered Atlantic salmon. The project also promises to diversify and improve river-based recreation and related economic opportunities, and has received strong support from the public, communities and businesses within the Penobscot watershed. This project provides NOAA Fisheries, as well as other federal partners, with an effective plan to restore endangered shortnose sturgeon and Atlantic salmon by opening up vast amounts of their blocked spawning habitat in the Penobscot.

The project will also provide unique benefits to the Penobscot Indian Nation; a federally recognized sovereign tribe whose Reservation literally consists of islands and surrounding waters in the river. The project will render meaningful the Tribe's federally recognized sustenance fishery rights and reinvigorate river-dependent cultural and spiritual practices.

The Penobscot River Restoration Project was recently awarded the Department of Interior's 2008 Cooperative Conservation Award and has been hailed as a landmark project of national significance. Given its potential use as a national model and its far reaching benefits, we urge the committee to continue its strong support for the project by funding it in FY09.

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American Chemical Society
Public Testimony
on the
National Science Foundation

Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Submitted by Anthony Pitagno, Manager of Legislative Affairs American Chemical Society

March 27, 2008

The American Chemical Society (ACS) appreciates the opportunity to submit public testimony to the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee on the fiscal year 2009 budget for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The ACS is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization, chartered by Congress in 1937, with more than 160,000 chemical scientists and engineers as members. The world's largest scientific society, ACS advances the chemical enterprise, increases public understanding of chemistry and science, and brings its expertise to bear on state and national matters.

National Science Foundation (NSF) investments in research and education have returned exceptional dividends to the American people as globalization has amplified the worldwide competition for ideas, science and engineering talent, and leadership in turning new technologies into real world applications. For the last half century, the U.S. has held a commanding position in all three areas. Now, other nations are implementing new policies and stepping up investments in research and training new talent. These global initiatives pose new challenges for America's innovation enterprise.

Last year, Congress showed strong bipartisan support for increased investment to strengthen basic research in the physical sciences and the U.S. science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education pipeline and by enacting the *America COMPETES Act*. This groundbreaking legislation authorizes a dramatic expansion of federal investments in the basic physical sciences and many aspects of STEM education from teacher training and recruitment, to educational research, to support for students studying in science and technology fields. As other nations around the globe are quickly advancing scientifically and technologically, it is imperative that the Congress – and especially your Subcommittee – appropriate the funding necessary to fully implement the *America COMPETES Act*.

Research

The American Chemical Society (ACS) urges Congress to provide, at a minimum, the president's budget request of $6.8 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) for FY 2009 (13.6 percent increase over FY 2008). This falls short of the level authorized to enhance

U.S innovation and competitiveness in the America COMPETES Act last summer, and Congress should strive to return to the funding blueprint approved with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Increases in the NSF research budget should primarily support a greater number of highly rated core research proposals. Supporting the best ideas and exploring new frontiers across research disciplines have been the hallmark of NSF and the backbone of the American research system. A commitment to core basic research is essential to meet the enormous promise of scientific innovation; to better train future scientists, engineers, and technicians; and to promote the success of multidisciplinary initiatives, including biotechnology and nanotechnology.

ACS is particularly concerned about declining federal support for the physical sciences and notes that NSF plays a central role in supporting chemistry, physics, mathematics, and other key research areas at colleges and universities. The Society supports the 10-year doubling request for NSF as well as the increased focus on the Math and Physical Sciences Directorate.

Education

NSF plays the pivotal role in sustaining America's technological leadership by fostering improvements in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at the K–12, undergraduate, and graduate levels. We strongly support the America COMPETES Act intent to reestablish NSF's preeminent role as the lead agency for improving STEM education and the funding blueprint for NSF's Education and Human Resources Directorate contained in the Act. The most critical issue facing STEM education today is the supply of qualified K–12 science and mathematics teachers. Funding for the NSF Math and Science Partnerships program should be expanded towards the level of $111 million authorized in FY 2009 for this program by the America COMPETES Act.

Given the importance of science education in improving American competitiveness and the inclusion of science as a part of *No Child Left Behind* testing requirements starting in the 2007–2008 school year, we are concerned that the budget for NSF's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate still lags behind its comparable FY 2004–2005 levels. We support the clear intent of the America COMPETES Act to provide funding increases for NSF's education programs, in FY 2009 and beyond, that are comparable to those provided for NSF's research directorates. Our Society also supports full funding of the $5 million Partnerships for Access to Laboratory Science pilot program authorized by the America COMPETES Act at the NSF to help develop outstanding model programs for improving high school science laboratories in the highest-need schools.

Testimony Regarding the FY09 Budget Request
Submitted 28 March 2008

Richard A. Anthes
President of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
and
Co-Chair, Committee on Earth Science and Applications from Space (2003-2007)
Member, Committee on Earth Sciences, Space Studies Board
National Research Council
The National Academies
and
Past President, American Meteorological Society

Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

I submit this written testimony for the record of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and Commerce, and Related Agencies. My name is Richard Anthes and I am the President of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). UCAR is a 71-university member consortium that manages and operates the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and additional programs that support and extend the country's scientific research and education capabilities.

I am also immediate past President of the American Meteorological Society and was co-chairman with Dr. Berrien Moore of the first ever National Research Council "decadal survey" that established priorities in Earth observations from space for NASA, NOAA and USGS. Our Committee's vision is represented by the following declaration:

"Understanding the complex, changing planet on which we live, how it supports life, and how human activities affect its ability to do so in the future is one of the greatest intellectual challenges facing humanity. It is also one of the most important challenges for society as it seeks to achieve prosperity, health, and sustainability."

As detailed in the committee's final report, *Earth Science and Applications from Space*, and as we are reminded on almost a daily basis, the world faces significant and profound environmental challenges: shortages of clean and accessible freshwater, degradation of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, global air pollution, declines in fisheries, devastating floods and droughts, and above all the accelerating pace of substantial changes in climate. These changes are not isolated; they interact with each other and with natural variability in complex manners that affect local, regional, and global scales in unpredictable ways. Addressing these societal challenges requires that we confront key scientific questions related to ice sheets and sea level change; large-scale and persistent shifts in precipitation, droughts, and water availability; transcontinental air pollution; and impacts of climate change on ecosystems, human health, and occurrence of extreme events such as hurricanes.

Yet at a time when the need has never been greater, we are faced with decreasing investments in real terms for NSF, NASA and NOAA, which are key agencies that are needed to provide the necessary observations, science, prediction models, and information that policy- and decision-makers want and need to respond effectively to imminent short-term threats from weather hazards and to plan and prepare for the long-term future of the United States as we move into an uncharted climate. It is essential to meet both the short- and long-term challenges that the nation support Earth sciences and applications in NSF, NASA and NOAA. **I support the FY09 request of $6.84 billion for NSF at a minimum, $4.583 billion for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, and $4.5 billion for NOAA overall.**

The atmospheric and Earth sciences community is concerned about the final outcome for basic research in many areas of the FY08 Consolidated Appropriations Act. We appreciate the difficult choices Appropriators were forced to make regarding FY08 appropriations, but the negative consequences of not investing now in science that contributes to our economy, standard of living, and safety and security, will only multiply in the future as global competitors invest on a broader scale than ever before. We appreciate Congress' support for the enactment last year of the America COMPETES Act and urge the Appropriations Committee to follow through with FY09 funding for NSF, NASA, and NOAA that reflects the concern demonstrated in that legislation for the health of this country's scientific programs.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

While we have lost a year with nearly flat NSF funding for FY08, this critical science agency can get back on track to planned accelerated research levels by receiving appropriated funds at the level of the authorized amount of $7.32 billion in the America COMPETES ACT. This would provide a return on investment that would benefit citizens in additional research funded for the short and long term health of the country. ***I urge the Members to support the President's overall FY09 request of at least $6.84 billion for the National Science Foundation and, within NSF, the request of $5.59 billion at least for Research and Related Activities (R&RA), the heart of NSF's scientific enterprise.***

Geosciences Directorate (GEO). In this most critical moment for the health of our planet and the future of life as we know it, the geosciences contribute knowledge that is absolutely necessary to understanding climate, weather, the dynamics of water resources, solar effects on Earth, space weather, the interactions of Earth's systems, energy resources, geologic hazards, and all aspects of the global oceans. The economic effects are substantial, with estimates of the component of the U.S. economy exposed to risks associated with weather and climate variability alone reaching $3 trillion annually. While we support the increase for NSF's GEO Directorate in the FY09 budget request, we urge the Committee to once again reiterate, as it did last year, that all disciplines of science, including the geosciences, should be considered integral to the American Competitiveness Initiative and urge even stronger increases to include GEO on the "doubling track." ***I urge the Members to support the President's FY09 request of $848.67 million, at a minimum, for the Geosciences Directorate, and within GEO, to provide the President's request of $240.8 million at least for the Atmospheric Sciences Division which provides resources for the atmospheric sciences community that are critical to the physical safety of our citizens, our economic health, and global issues of national security such as***

severe weather hazards, climate change, the security of our communications infrastructure, and the environmental health of the planet.

Office of Cyberinsfrastructure (OCI). As stated in the FY09 request, OCI "supports research, development, acquisition and operation of advanced shared and connecting infrastructure that enables otherwise unrealizable advances in 21st century science and engineering research and education." The modeling of the Earth's atmosphere is one of these "otherwise unrealizable advances." ***I urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $220.08 million, an 18.8 percent increase over FY08 that recognizes cyberinfrastructure's key role in this nation's scientific global competitiveness.***

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) has a central role in understanding our planet, that is realized especially through the Earth Science account. Yet despite increasing policy-driven demand for information and analysis the funding in this area is not keeping up with needed support for observing systems and research. I appreciate the Administration's focus on Earth Science in the FY09 request, particularly in the context of the cuts that other areas have received in this account. But NASA's overall role in this country's scientific endeavor is so strategic and central to our well being that SMD should be one of this nation's highest priorities. ***I urge the Members to increase the Science Mission Directorate funding levels to at least $4.583 billion, $142 million above the FY09 request and sufficient to keep pace with 3 percent inflation.***

With climate change accelerating more rapidly than expected, there are few NASA responsibilities more important than monitoring the Earth's environment. Within NASA's SMD account, Earth Science does relatively well with a 6.8 percent increase. Even so, the Earth Science funding request of $1.367 billion will fall short of the recommendations of the National Research Council (NRC) report, *Earth and Science Applications from Space: National Imperatives for the Next Decade and Beyond,* otherwise known as the Decadal Survey. **Out year funding, as planned now, absolutely falls short.** It is encouraging to see the Decadal Survey being used as a benchmark for the order and timing of missions. However, falling behind schedule increases the risk of losing continuity in important observational data, which presents serious calibration issues even if replacement sensors are eventually launched. ***I urge the Members to plan for needed future investments to get back on track to implement the Decadal Survey recommendations. The FY09 request includes out-year funding of approximately $1.3 billion annually, versus the Decadal Survey estimated funding requirement of over $2 billion annually.***

NASA's SMD programs that are in progress and others that are yet to be implemented will enable us to mitigate some of the property damage and prevent some of the deaths caused by severe weather and help us to mitigate, understand, and cope with the inevitable effects of natural and human-induced climate change. SMD "space weather" programs, part of the Living with a Star Program, will also protect space vehicles, astronauts, and satellites from the devastating radiation of solar storms. These programs are critical to the health of our economy, to the health of the Earth, and to our national security. Once again, ***I urge the Members to protect the vibrant NASA science accounts and missions, current and planned, that make possible the study of our own planet and the environment that sustains life on Earth.***

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
As stated in the Friends of NOAA Coalition letter of 12 March 2008, "Assuming an annual inflationary rate of 3 percent, and using FY05 as a baseline, the agency's budget would need to be $4.4 billion in FY09 just to remain level in constant dollars." It is obviously impossible for NOAA to keep up with expanding responsibilities while its budget effectively shrinks. The atmospheric sciences community appreciates the Administration's request of $4.1 billion for FY09, but this increase of 5.5 percent over FY08 will primarily augment the satellite programs while others are diminished. The America COMPETES Act, signed into law last August, states that NOAA "shall be a full participant in any interagency effort to promote innovation and economic competitiveness through near-term and long-term basic scientific research and development and the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education consistent with the agency mission, including authorized activities." NOAA has the potential to make much greater contributions, but the agency is struggling. There simply must be a better balance between NOAA's infrastructure, operations, and research funding, as well as effective management and organizational structure at all levels, for this agency to accomplish its mission.

I urge the Members to support an appropriation of at least $4.5 billion for NOAA in FY09 – a level recommended by the Senate for the past three fiscal years and endorsed by the multi-sector Friends of NOAA Coalition and Weather Coalition – and to do so while maintaining vital support for other portion's of the Subcommittee's research and development portfolio. While this amount is not sufficient to meet all of NOAA's current obligations well, it would at least begin to alleviate the pressures that have built up over many years and set a more realistic (although still inadequate) base on which to organize and mobilize this agency to meet current and future obligations that are of sufficient importance to the health of this nation that they warrant the Committee's full attention.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). Within OAR's Competitive Research Program request of $134.7 million, a small increase will support several climate and weather data related activities of great importance to the country and enable OAR to work more effectively with, and leverage from, the enormous base of expertise in the academic community. Within OAR Weather and Air Quality Research, the potentially substantial role of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in filling very serious observational gaps will be examined, and hurricane forecast improvement will be pursued. The FY09 request moves the US Weather Research Program from the National Weather Service back to OAR. This chronically underfunded program will fund THORpex, a multi-year international field experiment to improve two to ten-day forecasts, as well as experimental hurricane forecasting work. ***I urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $372.2 million (Operations, Research and Facilities – ORF) for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.***

National Weather Service (NWS). Within NWS, we fully support the FY09 requested program change highlights including support for weather data buoys to enhance hurricane and severe storm observations, the effort to develop enhanced fire weather modeling capability, and additional water vapor sensors that contribute to improved weather aviation services within the Integrated Upper Air Observing System. ***I urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $930.7 million for the NWS.***

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS). NESDIS receives an absolutely necessary increase for the geostationary satellite series, GOES-R. Any further delay or decrease in funding will cause additional program costs as well as interruption to the overall continuity of GOES comprehensive data coverage including atmospheric, oceanic, climatic, and solar observations. This would cause severe problems for the nation's weather forecasts and warnings, climatologic analysis and prediction, ecosystems management, and safe and efficient public and private transportation. The FY09 request cuts funding for the tri-agency National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite (NPOESS) program, which we understand is a result of restructuring. We are extremely concerned about out-year funding for this critical program, but are pleased with the reinstatement of the development of two NPOESS climate sensors that were previously de-manifested, the Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) sensor and the Total Solar Irradiance Sensor (TSIS).

Of additional concern is the nearly flat funding for NESDIS Data Centers. If the country is truly committed to renewing *and capitalizing on* its investment in Earth-observing systems, it must also invest in accessing, archiving and assessing the data gathered from these systems. The weather and climate community is concerned also that the President's request fails to begin initial planning for the CLARREO and GPSRO missions, as recommended in the NRC Decadal Survey. CLARREO and GPSRO provide critical measurements of Earth's and the sun's radiation, which are critical for climate, and temperature, water vapor, and electron density profiles for weather, climate, and space weather.

I urge the Members to consider the NESDIS Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) account FY09 request level of $1.24 billion to be the base level for this line office; to examine the erosion of funding for the NESDIS Data Centers and appropriate for them an inflationary increase; to press the agency to begin planning for the CLARREO and GPSRO missions; and to continue to pursue solutions to this nation's critical Earth observing program, the infrastructural satellite component of which is going to cause NOAA's core programs to be undercut severely if additional resources or restructuring are not provided.

National Ocean Service (NOS). Ocean data are of great importance to the work of the atmospheric sciences community. Of particular interest are the efforts within NOS to manage hydrographic datasets more effectively and efficiently (Ping to Chart Infrastructure Streamlining), as well as the implementation *as it was originally conceived*, of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). There is great concern that years of report recommendations have not been heeded and that the original concept of a "system of systems" providing information on the current and future state of the oceans, informed by competitive research grants to provide the technologies and understanding required to build and improve a scientifically sound system, has been abandoned. ***I urge the Members to support data gathering efforts within the National Ocean Service, but to ensure that a competitive grants program be fully funded for the Integrated Ocean Observing System so that this valuable program may be appropriately structured to meet its societal goals.***

I sincerely thank the members of the Committee for your stewardship of the nation's scientific enterprise and your understanding that the future strength of the nation depends on the investments we make in science and technology today.

Written Testimony of Dr. Wallace Fowler
On Behalf of the National Space Grant Alliance
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony on behalf of the National Space Grant Alliance (NSGA) as you consider funding priorities relevant to the FY09 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. I am Wallace Fowler, Texas Space Grant Director.

I am writing in support of NASA's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (Space Grant). My purpose is to highlight the work being done by the NASA Space Grant Consortia across the US. In an effort to bring greater national coherence to our advocacy efforts, the 52 Space Grant Directors formed the National Space Grant Alliance. NSGA is a non-profit national organization that is working to: (a) galvanize support and enthusiasm for aerospace education and research; (b) ensure that Space Grant has an appropriate level of financial and programmatic support; and (c) align Space Grant's education, workforce development and research activities with NASA's "commitment to excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)." Comprised of 52 Space Grant consortia including 867 affiliates – located in every state of the country, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico – the NSGA requests that you appropriate $48 million for Space Grant with the following language: "The Committee includes $48 million for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program. The amount provided will fund 40 states at $790,000 each and 12 states at $590,000 each. The Committee also includes $1.0 million for a new, competitive, innovation-award component within the Space Grant program. The remaining funds cover the NASA imposed fee to the program for full cost accounting." We believe that funding the Space Grant program at $48 million and including the requested language will improve Space Grant's ability to increase the number of students participating in SG. It will also strengthen the variety of activities carried out by SG to enhance entry into and retention in STEM career pathways relevant to achieving NASA's mission, strengthen the nation's future scientific and technical workforce; and engage the American people in NASA's mission through partnerships and alliances.

The return on investment in Space Grant is considerable. For a relatively small amount of Federal funding, coupled with leveraged matching resources, Space Grant is contributing $2.5 non-federal for every federal dollar. Hence, the impact of each Space Grant consortium is two and one- half fold larger than the funds that they receive from NASA.

The National Space Grant and Fellowship Program was established in 1988 through Public Law 100-147 (Sec 201-214) with 21 consortia being formed that year. Since that time, consortia have been formed in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The National Program is a highly leveraged program that enables NASA to maximize the Agency's investment in proven effective STEM education programs. Through Space Grant, NASA joins with our country's educators to use its unique resources (its people and its innovations) to help prepare America's youth to enter careers in STEM. These SG students will be the high tech leaders of tomorrow and the future researchers and managers of our Nation's laboratories and research centers and

industries. A highly educated and well-prepared workforce has been and continues to be critical to the success of the NASA's mission and America's continued leadership in an increasing "flat earth", where competitors are emerging from almost every region in the world. Within this context the National Space Grant Program, with over 20 years of experience stands as one of the premier NASA national educational ventures. More than 550 educational institutions and 300 other entities (industries, state and local government entities, not-for-profit organizations, museums, etc.) participate. Space Grant is truly a national educational force across America

An Example – The Texas Consortium

To give you a better picture of Space Grant nationally, I'd like to tell you a little about the Texas Space Grant Consortium (TSGC), where I am the Director, and cite a few accomplishments. Like Texas, each consortium has programs that serve local and regional constituencies. The Texas Consortium has 41 affiliates, representing a wide spectrum of academic institutions, community colleges, industry and non-profits. Incidentally, we are very proud of the fact that we currently have 12 minority serving institutions (MSIs) out of 34 total academic affiliates. We have instituted special programs to identify and address the unique needs of these schools and their students.

Participation in all of our programs is competitive. We award scholarships and fellowships to students, research initiation grants to new faculty, provide in-service space-related programs for K-12 teachers, run a space-related design challenge for students at our member institutions, and fund small programs to implement innovative programs that link higher education and K-12 schools in space related activities.

Higher Education Activities

In Texas, higher education activities include: Fellowships and Scholarships, small higher education program grants, research initiation grants, and our flagship higher education program--the Texas Space Grant Design Challenge workforce development program.

Texas Space Grant (TSGC) has run a flagship student design program since 1995. The current program was modified to meet NASA objectives and started in 2002. Now in its twelfth semester, this program continues to successfully pair undergraduate student design teams from TSGC member institutions with real-world projects and mentors provided by the NASA community. The program incorporates a series of milestones linked directly to team project funding. This allows participating teams to progress at pace that works well within any academic, background or experience level. NASA mentors work alongside each team to provide technical guidance and to introduce students to the "face" of NASA's "real" work environment; while collaborations within industry or the community at large help to broaden the overall experience. At the end of each semester, a formal Design Challenge Showcase/Conference, held near the Johnson Space Center (JSC), brings teams together to present design project results to NASA and industry personnel, academic leaders, and other teams. JSC site-visits and tour opportunities round out each team's exposure to NASA's multi-faceted work world. During the Showcase students from universities with more mature space-related design programs can mentor, by example, those with less developed programs. Since fall 2006, the Design Challenge

has incorporated NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate interest areas, including student design projects and internship opportunities plus a faculty summer project.

Although many of the students are completing senior design projects required for graduation, approximately 18% of participants are multi-level or lower-division team members. During fall 2007, the University of Texas, El Paso [an MSI] established a multi-discipline year long course specifically for involvement of students in the Design Challenge. Texas A&M Corpus Christi [an MSI], Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin have each sponsored lower division or multi-discipline team participation. Although lower-division teams may not have a comparable engineering background to upper-division teams, they consistently show the greatest level of growth and enthusiasm. Many NASA JSC mentors choose to work with younger teams due to the huge positive impacts that they can have on these students.

The TSGC Design Challenge continues to be a highly successful experience among our member institutions. In 2006-2007, 24 teams participated in the design challenge and during 2007- 2008 26 teams are participating. Since the program's beginning in fall 2002, an average of one team project per year has been selected for "further evaluation" at a NASA facility; one project is currently in use by JSC; four teams have taken their projects on to win national design competitions; and nine project patents have been pursued. Students participating in the TSGC Design Challenge report it as having a remarkable impact on their individual educational and career goals, bringing renewed interest in NASA's mission, space-related careers, and in graduate studies

A total of 131 teams have participated in the Design Challenge since fall 2002. Of those, 7 teams from Rice University have participated from the Department of BioEngineering - all participating for two semesters - all producing patent worthy projects.

All of the Design Challenge team participants do excellent work. I will use the teams from Rice University to demonstrate how teams can use the program in addressing topics that have academic, societal and space application relevance. Rice University projects have explored methods to measure bone density, to remedy bone loss, to produce IV fluids, to repair bone fractures and to diagnose disease using nanoshell technology. A few examples of how they have leveraged their success beyond the classroom:

- One team's project was tested in NASA's underwater laboratory.
- A second Rice team became the first bioengineering team to win the top prize at the NASA's Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts – Academic Linkages (RASC-AL) National Design competition.
- A third Rice BioEngineering team won three top tier prizes at RASC-AL - one of which applauded their project's contribution to astronaut safety. This team used its winnings to seed a Design Team Scholarship within the Department of BioEngineering at Rice.
- Participation in the Design Challenge Showcase inspired a design instructor at Rice to pursue the development of a similar showcase for biomedical engineering research. The Houston Society for Engineering in Medicine and Biology adopted the Design Challenge Showcase model for its annual national student conference.

Support and collaboration from industry partners, NASA Centers and NASA Headquarters is sustained with an average of seven industry partners participating per semester. Industries provide awards or award funding and career opportunity information to participating teams. The Johnson Space Center continues as the primary support in providing design project topics to the teams; a representative from MSFC participated for one year; NASA Headquarters partnered with the Design Challenge on eight instances; and the inclusion of the ESMD (spell out) design team projects adds NASA-wide opportunities for project/mentor linkage. The Design Challenge aligns directly with NASA's current emphasis on encouraging best practices in systems engineering and NASA's Vision for Space Exploration.

K-12 STEM Pipeline Activities

At the K-12 level, the Texas, like the other consortia, works primarily with teachers. We sponsor small-scale programs as well as a flagship program. Our LiftOff Summer Institute has been conducted every summer since 1990 at the Johnson Space Center. This institute is a four to five day program for K-12 teachers focused on a space-related theme. Its objective is to provide participants with information that will enable them to (1) use space-related materials to increase student interest and participation in science and mathematics related courses at their own schools, and (2) to act as a resource / consultant on how to use space-related materials for teachers in nearby schools.

Ninety five percent of the attendees say LiftOff is the best professional development training they have ever attended. LiftOff 2007 -- Robotics and Space Exploration was the largest Liftoff program ever with 45 participants, including three from NASA Explorer schools, eleven from other states sponsored by their Space Grant Consortia, and three from a teacher summer institute. Visiting a NASA Center, interacting with scientists and engineers, and gaining expertise in areas where they previously were not comfortable teaching, are all highlights for participants.

Follow-up evaluations show that teachers found the workshop to be very effective, are using the activities in their classrooms, and sharing information with other educators. On average, each teacher attending uses the educational curriculum received at LiftOff with 125 students and trains additional teachers in their district. In only 6 months since the Liftoff workshop, records indicate that on average, each Texas liftoff teacher participant conducted two training workshops involving 15-20 teachers per workshop. Approximately 1000 educators have been reached by LiftOff outreach and 5000students have benefited from activities teachers received at LiftOff.

In addition to LiftOff, we conduct three multi-day workshops scheduled in underrepresented and underserved communities on astronomy and the solar system. We partner with the Texas Education Agency to recruit educators and to provide stipends to school districts that cannot afford to send educators.

We also provide educational packets, both in hard copy and on the web, focused on NASA-related topics for museums and libraries in underserved areas as well as for the public at large. By providing access to this information, we work to improve the public understanding and

appreciation of science and technology, including NASA aerospace technology, research, and exploration missions. Students and educators increasingly go to our consortium web site for educator plans, student learning games and quiz activities, and other space related materials.

We also provide training materials, resources, and information to the NASA Explorer Schools in Texas. Besides reserving slots in our LiftOff program for teachers from NASA Explorer Schools, the TSGC outreach coordinator has visited several NASA Explorer Schools and educators from area NASA Explorer Schools have participated in multi-day TGC professional development workshops.

Minority Focused Activities

In 2006-2007 TSGC established a Minority Serving Institution Activities Council (MSIAC) consisting of representatives from the Minority Serving Institutions (MSI's) as well as minority representatives from majority institutions. The main goal of the MSIAC is to increase the number of minority participants in our programs. Texas has twelve minority serving institutions in its membership of 34 academic institutions. This year, two thirds of the members on the Fellowship/Scholarship selection committee were MSI institution/minority faculty. Representatives from MSIs also serve on the consortium review panel for student applications from the various NASA academies and on the panels that review proposals responding to our Higher Education, New Investigator, and K-12 Announcements of Opportunity. We have 9 women and 10 minority faculty members serving as institutional representatives of member institutions. We plan to involve the MSIAC increasingly in consortium activities as a way to energize the increasingly important minority student talent pool.

An example of an exemplary program at a minority serving institution deserves discussion. Three years ago, TSGC funded the Undergraduate Science Research Program, a pilot program from Houston Community College-Northwest, a MSI in Representative Culbertson's district. This program continues today. The objective of this program is to encourage and motivate Houston Community College students to complete their undergraduate academic careers and pursue graduate degrees in science, engineering, and mathematics. In this program, students from the community college obtain ten-week summer placements in laboratories at the University of Houston, Rice, NASA Johnson, and local industries. Fourteen of the fifteen participants in the program went on into further STEM education and/or STEM careers.

Summary

In summary, the National Space Grant and Fellowship Program is building bridges for students in the STEM pipeline. At the K-12 level, we excite teachers who inspire their students to take STEM courses at the middle and high school levels. These courses become the bridges for students to major in STEM subjects in college. Space Grant scholarships and fellowships help to support students as they move through the undergraduate curricula into the workforce or into graduate studies. Space grant is a national network of bridge builders for students in the STEM pipeline – a vital element in preparing today's American students for leadership positions in tomorrow's high technology world.

Statement of the American Society of Plant Biologists
Before the
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
April 2, 2008

Relating to Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations for the
National Science Foundation
Presented by
C. Robertson McClung
Associate Dean of the Sciences, Dartmouth College
President, American Society of Plant Biologists

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to present this testimony on behalf of the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB). Founded in 1924, ASPB is a non-profit society of 5,000 plant scientists. My name is Rob McClung. I am Associate Dean of the Sciences at Dartmouth College and President of ASPB. ASPB urges Subcommittee support for the Fiscal Year 2009 budget request of the National Science Foundation (NSF) of $6.85 billion, including $5.59 billion for NSF Research and Related Activities and $790 million for NSF Education and Human Resources. ASPB urges a 16-percent increase for the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences, which is the average of increases for all directorates in the FY 2009 request.

ASPB joined with 17 other science societies in a March 17 letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member expressing appreciation for your leadership in supporting NSF and comparable increases for all science disciplines. As noted in the letter, we are concerned that the NSF FY 2009 budget request again tries to distinguish among the disciplines in its proposed increases for the research directorates.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 indicates that the "Committees also believe the Foundation should maintain comparable growth in fiscal year 2008, to the extent possible for the biological sciences and social, behavioral, and economic sciences directorates. Each of the science disciplines is valuable in maintaining U.S. competitiveness. " This reflects language in the House Report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member for your leadership on this provision.

Your position is supported by the America COMPETES Act, which treats all disciplines as priorities. In addition, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" said there should not be a disinvestment in such important fields as the life sciences and social sciences.

We join with 17 other science societies in asking that the Subcommittee include report language in the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations report that asks NSF to ensure that the

biological sciences, geosciences and social, behavioral and economic sciences directorates receive increases in Fiscal Year 2009 that are comparable to the other directorates.

It is only through advances in all science disciplines that the nation will take advantage of the full range of innovation the science community has to offer.

Investment in world leading basic research sponsored by NSF contributes to U.S. leadership in the world in science and technology. U.S. leadership in a wide range of science disciplines is needed for U.S.-based development of new technologies that will help U.S. industries and workers compete and survive in the highly competitive global market.

Support for NSF is an investment in the knowledge base of our nation. Existence of a highly educated workforce is a major consideration for businesses in determining what part of the world they will start or expand their operations. Despite the attractions of lower costs for wages, land, buildings and related costs to companies considering moving jobs offshore, it is the highly skilled workforce in the U.S. that plays a major role in contributing to job starts and business expansions here at home.

The students, post doctoral students, assistant professors and professors supported at universities across the nation by NSF research and education grants make up a valuable talent pool highly prized by business and industry. In addition to the U.S., other nations are aware of the contributions the science community can make to its economy.

Educating and training its citizens to be world leading scientists and providing a reasonable opportunity for success in a science academic career have been keys to success for the U.S. science community and its related industries. Support provided by NSF for research proposals selected based on the highest scientific merit as determined through peer review is essential to development of the nation's scientific talent base. We're concerned that the high rate of rejection of even the highly rated biology proposals by NSF, will discourage some talented young students from pursuing a career in science.

Grant approval rates at 21 percent for the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences are below the average of 23 percent for all directorates in NSF Research and Related Activities. We appreciate the 10.3 percent increase in the budget request for the Directorate for Biological Sciences. We request that the Subcommittee increase funding for the Directorate for Biological Sciences to the 16-percent average increase for Research and Related Activities in the budget request. This would make possible the granting of more awards for a greater number of high quality research proposals.

The NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences is the major source of support for fundamental non-medical biology research conducted at universities across the nation. Increased support for non-medical biology research could strengthen the nation's world standing and competitive strength in this important area of research. This would in turn strengthen U.S.-based industries dependent upon basic biological research, including biotechnology, bioenergy, biosafety, biodefense and agriculture.

In concert with maintaining preeminence in science and technology, one of the keys to maintaining world leadership for the U.S. will be to assure a reliable and affordable energy supply for industry and consumers. Basic plant research supported by the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences is providing knowledge that is contributing to bioenergy research capabilities of the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Agriculture. For example the Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP) and 2010 Project are producing a treasure trove of knowledge of plant gene structure and functions.

As projected in a report prepared by DOE and USDA in April 2005, advances in plant and related research will enable the U.S. to produce more than 1.3 billion tons of biomass "enough to produce biofuels to meet more than one-third of the current demand for transportation fuels." The report is titled "Biomass as Feedstock for a Bioenergy and Bioproducts Industry: The Technical Feasibility of a Billion-Ton Annual Supply." The report can be found at:
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/pdfs/final_billionton_vision_report2.pdf

A letter to the editor I wrote on "The next generation of biofuels" that was published in The Washington Times March 6, 2008 and is appended to my statement commends the Congress and President for initiating needed investments in new generation biofuels. We encourage additional investment in all phases of plant research. This will hasten the day when biofuels make up 33 percent instead of three percent of the transportation fuels used in the United States.

Plant genome research has helped propel plant science into a new modern era with far more capabilities in biology, bioinformatics, computational biology, modeling systems, systems biology and other areas. Findings in future years through the Plant Genome Research Program and 2010 Project will further enhance research capabilities with plants. As the primary source for food, fiber and feed and a promising clean alternative energy source, increased knowledge of plant structure and function is essential to meeting life-sustaining human needs.

A recent report of the National Academies found many important contributions from the NSF-sponsored National Plant Genome Initiative. The report found that basic plant genome research serves a wide diversity of agricultural and environmental purposes, as well as contributing to basic scientific discovery. For example, by increasing knowledge of how plants cope with extreme environmental stresses, plant genomics research can help scientists more precisely breed or engineer plants that can thrive as climates change. This knowledge is particularly important with respect to how water is used to grow crops. Economically viable production of fuels from plant biomass, in quantities that could contribute to a reversal of the world's dependence on fossil fuels, will require increases in plant productivity and advances in plant biomass-to-fuel conversion.

A key to maintaining the health and security of the U.S. and its citizens is to continue to provide secure food supplies. NSF support for basic plant research contributes to the local economies nationwide, including rural areas, while helping to secure the food supply of all

Americans. As the first step of every food chain, plants and research on plants plays an essential role in meeting the nutritional needs of people here and abroad.

The NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences sponsors examination of basic research questions on plants and other organisms that will lead to technologies to continue a secure supply of domestically produced food and bioenergy.

Thank you again for this opportunity to present our testimony before the Subcommittee.

The Washington Times
Letters to the Editor
March 6, 2008

The next generation of biofuels

Oil closed at $100 a barrel Feb. 19 for the first time. The Washington Times reported on Feb. 20 ("Oil tops $100 on refinery, OPEC," Business) that fears that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries may cut production contributed to the price increase.

Some analysts see this $100 mark as just a stop on the way to $200-per-barrel oil, possibly by the end of this decade. The reason cited is similar to newspaper reports on the bump to $100 per barrel -- OPEC's control of supply.

In addition to the economic and political challenges imposed by our reliance on foreign oil, we also need to be concerned that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the use of fossil fuel contribute significantly to global warming, evident from observed increases in global air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and a rising global average sea level. Is there a large-volume alternative to the use of increasingly costly oil with its high GHG emissions? There will be.

We are at the early stages of research on the next generation of biofuels using plant cellulose. Plant stems, stalks and leaves will become low-cost feedstocks for biofuels. A 2005 report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy projects that there will be enough biomass (cellulose) to meet more than one-third of the current U.S. demand in transportation fuels.

At the same time, next-generation biofuels will greatly lower emissions of stored carbon compared to gasoline. Biofuels will be better for Americans' pocketbooks and the environment.

The president and Congress are to be commended for initiating needed investments in new-generation biofuels research. Additional investment is needed in all phases of plant research. This will help hasten the day when biofuels make up 33 percent instead of 3 percent of the transportation fuels used in the United States.

C. ROBERTSON MCCLUNG, President, American Society of Plant Biologists

Testimony Regarding the FY09 Budget Request
Submitted 28 March 2008

Richard A. Anthes
President of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
and
Co-Chair, Committee on Earth Science and Applications from Space (2003-2007)
Member, Committee on Earth Sciences, Space Studies Board
National Research Council
The National Academies
and
Past President, American Meteorological Society

Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

I submit this written testimony for the record of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and Commerce, and Related Agencies. My name is Richard Anthes and I am the President of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). UCAR is a 71-university member consortium that manages and operates the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and additional programs that support and extend the country's scientific research and education capabilities.

I am also immediate past President of the American Meteorological Society and was co-chairman with Dr. Berrien Moore of the first ever National Research Council "decadal survey" that established priorities in Earth observations from space for NASA, NOAA and USGS. Our Committee's vision is represented by the following declaration:

"Understanding the complex, changing planet on which we live, how it supports life, and how human activities affect its ability to do so in the future is one of the greatest intellectual challenges facing humanity. It is also one of the most important challenges for society as it seeks to achieve prosperity, health, and sustainability."

As detailed in the committee's final report, *Earth Science and Applications from Space*, and as we are reminded on almost a daily basis, the world faces significant and profound environmental challenges: shortages of clean and accessible freshwater, degradation of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, global air pollution, declines in fisheries, devastating floods and droughts, and above all the accelerating pace of substantial changes in climate. These changes are not isolated; they interact with each other and with natural variability in complex manners that affect local, regional, and global scales in unpredictable ways. Addressing these societal challenges requires that we confront key scientific questions related to ice sheets and sea level change; large-scale and persistent shifts in precipitation, droughts, and water availability; transcontinental air pollution; and impacts of climate change on ecosystems, human health, and occurrence of extreme events such as hurricanes.

Yet at a time when the need has never been greater, we are faced with decreasing investments in real terms for NSF, NASA and NOAA, which are key agencies that are needed to provide the necessary observations, science, prediction models, and information that policy- and decision-makers want and need to respond effectively to imminent short-term threats from weather hazards and to plan and prepare for the long-term future of the United States as we move into an uncharted climate. It is essential to meet both the short- and long-term challenges that the nation support Earth sciences and applications in NSF, NASA and NOAA. **I support the FY09 request of $6.84 billion for NSF at a minimum, $4.583 billion for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, and $4.5 billion for NOAA overall**.

The atmospheric and Earth sciences community is concerned about the final outcome for basic research in many areas of the FY08 Consolidated Appropriations Act. We appreciate the difficult choices Appropriators were forced to make regarding FY08 appropriations, but the negative consequences of not investing now in science that contributes to our economy, standard of living, and safety and security, will only multiply in the future as global competitors invest on a broader scale than ever before. We appreciate Congress' support for the enactment last year of the America COMPETES Act and urge the Appropriations Committee to follow through with FY09 funding for NSF, NASA, and NOAA that reflects the concern demonstrated in that legislation for the health of this country's scientific programs.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

While we have lost a year with nearly flat NSF funding for FY08, this critical science agency can get back on track to planned accelerated research levels by receiving appropriated funds at the level of the authorized amount of $7.32 billion in the America COMPETES ACT. This would provide a return on investment that would benefit citizens in additional research funded for the short and long term health of the country. ***I urge the Members to support the President's overall FY09 request of at least $6.84 billion for the National Science Foundation and, within NSF, the request of $5.59 billion at least for Research and Related Activities (R&RA), the heart of NSF's scientific enterprise.***

Geosciences Directorate (GEO). In this most critical moment for the health of our planet and the future of life as we know it, the geosciences contribute knowledge that is absolutely necessary to understanding climate, weather, the dynamics of water resources, solar effects on Earth, space weather, the interactions of Earth's systems, energy resources, geologic hazards, and all aspects of the global oceans. The economic effects are substantial, with estimates of the component of the U.S. economy exposed to risks associated with weather and climate variability alone reaching $3 trillion annually. While we support the increase for NSF's GEO Directorate in the FY09 budget request, we urge the Committee to once again reiterate, as it did last year, that all disciplines of science, including the geosciences, should be considered integral to the American Competitiveness Initiative and urge even stronger increases to include GEO on the "doubling track." ***I urge the Members to support the President's FY09 request of $848.67 million, at a minimum, for the Geosciences Directorate, and within GEO, to provide the President's request of $240.8 million at least for the Atmospheric Sciences Division which provides resources for the atmospheric sciences community that are critical to the physical safety of our citizens, our economic health, and global issues of national security such as***

severe weather hazards, climate change, the security of our communications infrastructure, and the environmental health of the planet.

Office of Cyberinsfrastructure (OCI). As stated in the FY09 request, OCI "supports research, development, acquisition and operation of advanced shared and connecting infrastructure that enables otherwise unrealizable advances in 21st century science and engineering research and education." The modeling of the Earth's atmosphere is one of these "otherwise unrealizable advances." ***I urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $220.08 million, an 18.8 percent increase over FY08 that recognizes cyberinfrastructure's key role in this nation's scientific global competitiveness.***

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) has a central role in understanding our planet, that is realized especially through the Earth Science account. Yet despite increasing policy-driven demand for information and analysis the funding in this area is not keeping up with needed support for observing systems and research. I appreciate the Administration's focus on Earth Science in the FY09 request, particularly in the context of the cuts that other areas have received in this account. But NASA's overall role in this country's scientific endeavor is so strategic and central to our well being that SMD should be one of this nation's highest priorities. ***I urge the Members to increase the Science Mission Directorate funding levels to at least $4.583 billion, $142 million above the FY09 request and sufficient to keep pace with 3 percent inflation.***

With climate change accelerating more rapidly than expected, there are few NASA responsibilities more important than monitoring the Earth's environment. Within NASA's SMD account, Earth Science does relatively well with a 6.8 percent increase. Even so, the Earth Science funding request of $1.367 billion will fall short of the recommendations of the National Research Council (NRC) report, *Earth and Science Applications from Space: National Imperatives for the Next Decade and Beyond,* otherwise known as the Decadal Survey. **Out year funding, as planned now, absolutely falls short.** It is encouraging to see the Decadal Survey being used as a benchmark for the order and timing of missions. However, falling behind schedule increases the risk of losing continuity in important observational data, which presents serious calibration issues even if replacement sensors are eventually launched. ***I urge the Members to plan for needed future investments to get back on track to implement the Decadal Survey recommendations. The FY09 request includes out-year funding of approximately $1.3 billion annually, versus the Decadal Survey estimated funding requirement of over $2 billion annually.***

NASA's SMD programs that are in progress and others that are yet to be implemented will enable us to mitigate some of the property damage and prevent some of the deaths caused by severe weather and help us to mitigate, understand, and cope with the inevitable effects of natural and human-induced climate change. SMD "space weather" programs, part of the Living with a Star Program, will also protect space vehicles, astronauts, and satellites from the devastating radiation of solar storms. These programs are critical to the health of our economy, to the health of the Earth, and to our national security. Once again, ***I urge the Members to protect the vibrant NASA science accounts and missions, current and planned, that make possible the study of our own planet and the environment that sustains life on Earth.***

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
As stated in the Friends of NOAA Coalition letter of 12 March 2008, "Assuming an annual inflationary rate of 3 percent, and using FY05 as a baseline, the agency's budget would need to be $4.4 billion in FY09 just to remain level in constant dollars." It is obviously impossible for NOAA to keep up with expanding responsibilities while its budget effectively shrinks. The atmospheric sciences community appreciates the Administration's request of $4.1 billion for FY09, but this increase of 5.5 percent over FY08 will primarily augment the satellite programs while others are diminished. The America COMPETES Act, signed into law last August, states that NOAA "shall be a full participant in any interagency effort to promote innovation and economic competitiveness through near-term and long-term basic scientific research and development and the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education consistent with the agency mission, including authorized activities." NOAA has the potential to make much greater contributions, but the agency is struggling. There simply must be a better balance between NOAA's infrastructure, operations, and research funding, as well as effective management and organizational structure at all levels, for this agency to accomplish its mission.

I urge the Members to support an appropriation of at least $4.5 billion for NOAA in FY09 – a level recommended by the Senate for the past three fiscal years and endorsed by the multi-sector Friends of NOAA Coalition and Weather Coalition -- and to do so while maintaining vital support for other portion's of the Subcommittee's research and development portfolio. While this amount is not sufficient to meet all of NOAA's current obligations well, it would at least begin to alleviate the pressures that have built up over many years and set a more realistic (although still inadequate) base on which to organize and mobilize this agency to meet current and future obligations that are of sufficient importance to the health of this nation that they warrant the Committee's full attention.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). Within OAR's Competitive Research Program request of $134.7 million, a small increase will support several climate and weather data related activities of great importance to the country and enable OAR to work more effectively with, and leverage from, the enormous base of expertise in the academic community. Within OAR Weather and Air Quality Research, the potentially substantial role of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in filling very serious observational gaps will be examined, and hurricane forecast improvement will be pursued. The FY09 request moves the US Weather Research Program from the National Weather Service back to OAR. This chronically underfunded program will fund THORpex, a multi-year international field experiment to improve two to ten-day forecasts, as well as experimental hurricane forecasting work. ***I urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $372.2 million (Operations, Research and Facilities -- ORF) for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.***

National Weather Service (NWS). Within NWS, we fully support the FY09 requested program change highlights including support for weather data buoys to enhance hurricane and severe storm observations, the effort to develop enhanced fire weather modeling capability, and additional water vapor sensors that contribute to improved weather aviation services within the Integrated Upper Air Observing System. ***I urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $930.7 million for the NWS.***

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS). NESDIS receives an absolutely necessary increase for the geostationary satellite series, GOES-R. Any further delay or decrease in funding will cause additional program costs as well as interruption to the overall continuity of GOES comprehensive data coverage including atmospheric, oceanic, climatic, and solar observations. This would cause severe problems for the nation's weather forecasts and warnings, climatologic analysis and prediction, ecosystems management, and safe and efficient public and private transportation. The FY09 request cuts funding for the tri-agency National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite (NPOESS) program, which we understand is a result of restructuring. We are extremely concerned about out-year funding for this critical program, but are pleased with the reinstatement of the development of two NPOESS climate sensors that were previously de-manifested, the Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) sensor and the Total Solar Irradiance Sensor (TSIS).

Of additional concern is the nearly flat funding for NESDIS Data Centers. If the country is truly committed to renewing *and capitalizing on* its investment in Earth-observing systems, it must also invest in accessing, archiving and assessing the data gathered from these systems. The weather and climate community is concerned also that the President's request fails to begin initial planning for the CLARREO and GPSRO missions, as recommended in the NRC Decadal Survey. CLARREO and GPSRO provide critical measurements of Earth's and the sun's radiation, which are critical for climate, and temperature, water vapor, and electron density profiles for weather, climate, and space weather.

I urge the Members to consider the NESDIS Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) account FY09 request level of $1.24 billion to be the base level for this line office; to examine the erosion of funding for the NESDIS Data Centers and appropriate for them an inflationary increase; to press the agency to begin planning for the CLARREO and GPSRO missions; and to continue to pursue solutions to this nation's critical Earth observing program, the infrastructural satellite component of which is going to cause NOAA's core programs to be undercut severely if additional resources or restructuring are not provided.

National Ocean Service (NOS). Ocean data are of great importance to the work of the atmospheric sciences community. Of particular interest are the efforts within NOS to manage hydrographic datasets more effectively and efficiently (Ping to Chart Infrastructure Streamlining), as well as the implementation *as it was originally conceived*, of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). There is great concern that years of report recommendations have not been heeded and that the original concept of a "system of systems" providing information on the current and future state of the oceans, informed by competitive research grants to provide the technologies and understanding required to build and improve a scientifically sound system, has been abandoned. ***I urge the Members to support data gathering efforts within the National Ocean Service, but to ensure that a competitive grants program be fully funded for the Integrated Ocean Observing System so that this valuable program may be appropriately structured to meet its societal goals.***

I sincerely thank the members of the Committee for your stewardship of the nation's scientific enterprise and your understanding that the future strength of the nation depends on the investments we make in science and technology today.

Testimony of the
American Museum of Natural History
presented to the
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Science, State, and Commerce
regarding
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
March 28, 2008

Overview

Recognizing its potential to support NOAA in its goals to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment; to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources; and to protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs, the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) seeks $2 million to advance a partnership with the agency to promote the environmental education, outreach, and research so pivotal to the health of our nation and our planet.

About the American Museum of Natural History

The AMNH is one of the nation's preeminent institutions for scientific research and public education. Since its founding in 1869, the Museum has pursued its mission to "discover, interpret, and disseminate—through scientific research and education—knowledge about human cultures, the natural world, and the universe." It is renowned for its exhibitions and collections of more than 32 million natural specimens and cultural artifacts. With nearly four million annual visitors, its audience is one of the largest, fastest growing, and most diverse of any museum in the country. Museum scientists conduct groundbreaking research in fields ranging from zoology, comparative genomics, and informatics to Earth, space, and environmental sciences and biodiversity conservation. Their work forms the basis for all the Museum's activities that seek to explain complex issues and help people to understand the events and processes that created and continue to shape the Earth, life and civilization on this planet, and the universe beyond.

The Museum's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, founded in 1993, is dedicated to enhancing the use of scientific data to mitigate threats to global biodiversity, and to integrating this information into the conservation process and disseminating it widely. It conducts conservation-related field projects around the world, trains scientists, organizes scientific symposia, presents public programs, and produces publications geared toward scientists, policy makers, and the lay public. Each spring, the CBC hosts symposia that focus on conservation issues. The 2007 symposium, *Small Matters: Microbes and Their Role in Conservation*, brought together a diverse group of microbiologists and conservation biologists to explore broad questions of the planet's microbial diversity and how conservation practices take microbial life into account. The 2008 symposium, *Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World: Lessons for Global Policy* will seek to bridge gaps, address challenges and opportunities, and help to forge a long-term multi-dimensional vision for sustaining biological and cultural diversity.

The Museum's renovated Hall of Ocean Life, reopened in spring 2003, is a major focal point for public education on marine science issues. Drawing on the Museum's world-renowned expertise in Ichthyology as well as other areas of Vertebrate as well as Invertebrate Zoology, the Hall is pivotal in educating visitors about the oceans' key role in sustaining life on our planet.

The renovated Hall of Ocean Life, together with the new Halls of Biodiversity, Planet Earth, and the Universe and the rebuilt Hayden Planetarium (part of the new Rose Center for Earth and Space) provide visitors with a seamless educational journey from the universe's beginnings to the formation and processes of Earth to the extraordinary diversity of life on our planet.

Common Goals of NOAA and AMNH

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is committed to understanding and predicting changes in the Earth's environment and to conserving and managing coastal and marine resources to meet the nation's needs. NOAA's Education Plan outlines a broad vision for reaching various audiences to build awareness and knowledge of issues related to the world's atmosphere, climate, oceans, and coastal ecosystems. Addressing the needs of teachers, students, and policy makers as well as the general public, the agency's goals include enhancing environmental literacy and knowledge, application of NOAA science, and development of a capable and diverse workforce for environmental science.

The American Museum of Natural History shares NOAA's commitment to these environmental goals and to the scientific research and public education that support them. Since its founding in 1869, the American Museum has pursued its mission of scientific investigation and public education. Its exhibitions and collections serve as a field guide to the entire planet and present a panorama of the world's cultures. Museum collections of some 32 million specimens and cultural artifacts provide an irreplaceable record of life. More than 200 Museum scientists conduct groundbreaking research in fields as diverse as systematic and conservation biology, astrophysics, and Earth and biodiversity sciences. The work of scientific staff fuels exhibitions and educational programming that reach annually an on-site audience of nearly four million visitors—nearly half of them children.

Environmental Literacy Initiative

In FY04, as a result of Congressional leadership, the Museum entered into a partnership with NOAA that launched a multi-year marine science and education initiative. Support for this initiative, which encompassed a broad range of education and research activities closely aligned with NOAA goals and purposes, was continued in FY05 (and recommended in the FY07 Senate report), and further leveraged by Museum scientists who successfully secured competitive NOAA education and research funding.

Building upon this strong foundation, and in concert with the strategic priorities of NOAA and the Museum, we seek $2 million in FY09 to join with NOAA in education, outreach, and research activities that promote environmental literacy, particularly concerning climate. Over a one-year period, the Museum will seek to advance the nation's climate literacy by carrying out a rich agenda of public education and outreach activities, many in conjunction with a major national exhibition on climate change. These activities will include presenting current climate-related issues and news in the Museum's nationally distributed *Science Bulletins* program; developing advanced visualization tools and techniques for presenting environmental data to the public in varied formats; developing on-site and online professional development offerings, exchanges, and resources for teachers, children, families, and students; presenting programs for the general public; and carrying out research that advances conservation of marine ecosystems systems.

The Nature Conservancy
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Statement of Emily Woglom on behalf of The Nature Conservancy
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
March 28, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the recommendations of The Nature Conservancy on the fiscal year 2009 budget for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Conservancy urges the Committee to provide appropriations for NOAA at or approaching $4.5 billion, as recommended by the House Oceans Caucus and the Friends of NOAA Coalition. This funding level for NOAA would allow expanded ocean conservation, restoration, and management programs; increased research and education activities; and provide critical improvements in infrastructure (satellites, ships, high performance computers, facilities) and data management. More specifically, The Nature Conservancy supports the following funding levels for the following programs:

Line Office, Account, Program	**FY 09 Pres Bud**	**FY 09 TNC Rec**
National Ocean Service		
Operations, Research, and Facilities		
Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration	$5M	$5M
Coral Reef Program	$25.9M	$30.5M
Response and Restoration Base, Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP)	$9.3M	$9.3M
Estuary Restoration Program	$1.2M	$4M
Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction		
Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program	$15M	$60M
National Marine Fisheries Service		
Operations, Research, and Facilities		
Community-based Restoration Program	$13M	$23M
Open Rivers Initiative	$7M	$12M
Penobscot River Restoration	0	$5M
Protected Species Research & Management, Cooperation with States	$990K	$5M
National Environmental Satellite Data & Information Service		
Operations, Research, and Facilities		
Coral Reef Monitoring	$737K	$737K
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	$35M	$90M

The Conservancy works to identify priorities for coastal and marine conservation through ecoregional plans. We identify present and likely future threats to marine biological diversity and then identify appropriate strategies for conservation. At more than one hundred marine sites

around the world, The Nature Conservancy has used a variety of strategies for marine conservation including habitat restoration, removal of invasive species, coastal land acquisition, private conservation of submerged lands, establishment of protected areas, management of extractive marine resources activities, and reduction of nutrient and toxic inputs to coastal systems. No single strategy works everywhere; at every site multiple conservation approaches that take into account the biological, socioeconomic, and political circumstances are needed.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is an important partner to the Conservancy in many aspects of our conservation work:

- We rely upon NOAA's data, research, and monitoring of coastal and marine systems, and have several shared priorities on which we collaborate. For example, NOAA's Coastal Services Center maintains a strong partnership-oriented approach to providing information and technical assistance to states, local governments, other federal agencies, and the private sector to inform decision-making.
- We rely on NOAA's programs that support site-based conservation and restoration activities and that provide for management of coastal and marine systems. Programs such as Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation, Community-based Restoration, Open Rivers Initiative are excellent examples of practical, community-oriented approaches to conservation and management of coastal and marine resources. These programs should be expanded.
- NOAA's contributions to state and local implementation and education programs help ensure that the human capacity exists to address environmental management issues at the necessary scale. The Committee should provide funding for staff capacity to provide technical assistance, efficiently manage grants and programs, and help to measure effectiveness.

While we support strong funding for NOAA as a whole, we would particularly like to offer the Committee our recommendations regarding a specific set of programs that support marine, estuarine, and coastal habitat conservation and restoration. NOAA has demonstrated significant capability to achieve results by advancing constructive, on-the-ground and in-the-water habitat conservation. Habitat losses have a substantial impact on the health and productivity of marine ecosystems, yet NOAA's ability to work closely with communities around the country to stem or reverse these losses is constrained by the relatively small amount of funding they receive. We would urge you to consider increasing funding for the following programs:

Habitat Restoration:

- **Community-based Restoration Program ($23 million)**: Currently this program, with its exceptional track record since 1996, is able to fund only about 15% of the proposals it receives. Additional funds would be well-spent.
- **Open Rivers Initiative ($12 million)**: There are hundreds of thousands of small obsolete barriers on rivers and streams across the United States that block fish passage and restrict access to important habitat. This Initiative is part of a multi-agency commitment to address this problem.
- **Penobscot River Restoration ($5 million)**: In a 2004 study, the National Research Council identified removal of dams as a top priority near-term action to recover Atlantic salmon in Maine. Removal of the Veazie and Howland dams and modifications proposed at Howland dam on the mainstem of the Penobscot River – Maine's largest river system - present a

remarkable opportunity to recover a species.[1] This project will improve access to almost 1,000 miles of habitat for Atlantic salmon, thousands of miles of habitat for American eel, and hundreds of miles for alewives. Atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon (both federally listed), tomcod, and smelt will recover lost access to their historic habitat ranges. This project will also provide benefits to the Penobscot Indian nation, new recreational opportunities, and will come with no net loss of power production from the river, maintaining a clean and secure energy source for Maine's residents.

- **Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) ($9.3 million)**: Thousands of oil spills and hazardous waste sites contaminate coastal and estuarine areas. DARRP uses a collaborative process to respond to pollution events, assess injuries, and work with responsible parties to restore natural trust resources. Through this program NOAA has secured nearly $450 million in settlements for restoration projects over the last 15 years. Additional funding is necessary for NOAA to continue to properly respond to spills, conduct initial environmental assessments, and work to resolve each settlement.
- **Estuary Restoration Program ($4 million)**: The Estuary Restoration Act (ERA), as reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, sets a goal to restore one million acres of estuary habitat by 2010. The Act encourages coordination among all levels of government, and engages the unique strengths of the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. The ERA authorizes $4 million for NOAA, including $2.5 million for on-the-ground restoration projects and $1.5 million for maintenance of restoration project monitoring data.

Protected Species Conservation

- **Cooperation with the States ($5 million)**: Through this program, authorized under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, NMFS provides grants to States to support conservation actions that contribute to recovery or have direct conservation benefits for listed species, recently de-listed species, and candidate species that reside within that State. A comparable program in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has been successful in funding activities that contribute to the recovery of listed species under FWS jurisdiction. With the exception of jointly managed species (Atlantic salmon), activities related to NMFS jurisdiction species are not eligible for funding under the FWS program. While substantial funding has been directed to Pacific salmon, there are few resources available to support proactive conservation efforts geared toward recovery of the other 30 species for which NMFS has sole or joint management responsibility.
- **Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund ($90 million)**
  The Conservancy strongly supports $90 million for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). PCSRF has funded hundreds of successful on the ground salmon conservation efforts and is a critical complement to federal salmon recovery and management efforts. PCSRF projects are further matched in a 3:1 ratio (federal/non federal) by local stakeholders and have resulted in significant progress in protecting and restoring these salmon, which are critical to the economic, ecological, and cultural well being of the Pacific Northwest. We are pleased that NOAA is moving towards a more merit-based allocation of funds focused on activities to recover and protect listed and at-risk salmon populations. However, we are

[1] National Research Council. Atlantic Salmon in Maine. National Academies Press. 275 pp. 2004.

greatly concerned about the dramatic decline in funding for the program, from $89 million in FY2004 and FY2005 to $35 million in the President's FY 2009 request.

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation

- **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) ($60 million)**: The Nature Conservancy supports funding CELCP at $60 million for FY2009. We recognize that this is a substantial increase of prior year funding levels, but feel that it is warranted given the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the FY2007 and FY 2008 budgets and the pent-up demand left over from low funding levels in those years. We support a competitive process to award CELCP funding. However, for a competitive process to be successful, funding for the program needs to accommodate a greater percentage of the overall demand for coastal acquisition projects.

Coral Reef Conservation

- **Coral Reef Conservation Program ($30.5 million)**: The Conservancy continues to work through a strong partnership with NOAA's Coral Reef program, and we are delighted with their enthusiastic desire to work together on improving resilience of coral reefs, developing approaches for sustainable financing for coral conservation activities at the local level, and other creative approaches to reducing threats to corals. The $30.5 million requested would include $1.5 million to support "Local Action Strategies," a unique partnership between NOAA and states and territories to address threats to coral reefs at the local level.
- **Coral Reef Monitoring ($737,000)**: This line item is an important part of the Coral Reef Program, but is requested by the Administration through the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS). The President's Budget requests $737,000 for this modest but effective program known as "Coral Reef Watch." Whether funded in NESDIS or consolidated with the Coral Reef Program funding in NOS, we recommend that $737,000 be included in addition to the $30.5 million referenced above.

Regional Approaches to Ocean and Coastal Issues

- **Gulf of Mexico Governor's Alliance ($5 million):** For the second year, the Administration's budget requests $5 million to help implement the Gulf of Mexico Governors' Action Plan. The Conservancy thanks the Committee for their support and appropriation of this funding in FY 2008 and urges the Committee to provide at least this amount again in FY 2009 to leverage action on the commitments made by the Gulf Coast Governors to address important regional coastal issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with the Committee the Conservancy's priorities in NOAA's FY2008 budget. We would be pleased to provide the Committee with additional information on any of the Conservancy's activities described here or elsewhere. You may contact Emily Woglom at 703-841-5374 or via email at ewoglom@tnc.org, if you have questions on which we might be of assistance.

The Nature Conservancy is an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of biological diversity. Our mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Our on-the-ground and in-the-water conservation work is carried out in all 50

states and in 27 foreign countries and is supported by approximately one million individual members. We have helped conserve nearly 15 million acres of land in the United States and Canada and more than 102 million acres with local partner organizations globally.

The Conservancy owns and manages approximately 1,400 preserves throughout the United States—the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world. We recognize, however, that our mission cannot be achieved by core protected areas alone. Therefore, our projects increasingly seek to accommodate compatible human uses to address sustained human wellbeing.

NASULGC National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges

FY 2009 Testimony of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND LAND-GRANT COLLEGES (NASULGC)
BOARD ON NATURAL RESOURCES (BNR)

To the
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS)

Submitted by Dr. Mary Poulton, Chair of the NASULGC Board of Natural Resources; and Professor and Head, Department of Mining/Geological Engineering University of Arizona

On behalf of the NASULGC BNR, we thank you for your support of science and research programs within the National Science Foundation. As members of the scientific academic community ***we encourage you to support an appropriation of at least $6.85 billion for the National Science Foundation, including at least $675 million for the Directorate of Biological Sciences (BIO)***. The FY08 enacted level for NSF is $6.07 billion. The administration's FY09 request is $6.85 billion for NSF and $675 million for BIO. ***Furthermore, within BIO, we ask that you support the President's budget request for the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) at $26 million in FY09.***

While we are pleased that the NSF received an increase (3 %) in FY 2008 over FY 2007 enacted level, we are concerned that when adjusted for inflation, the NSF is still receiving less funding than in previous years. The BNR supports a 13% increase for the NSF over the 2008 enacted level to keep it above the level of inflation over the past several years and fulfill the promises of the America COMPETES Act.

State universities and land-grant colleges truly welcome and are excited by the passage of the America Competes Act and the renewed national focus on scientific research and education. Education and scientific research have served as the infrastructure and foundation for much of Nation's economic and national security. We are also extremely pleased with the administration's proposal to double funding in the physical sciences at NSF over the next 10 years; however, we feel that biological sciences are equally important to America's competitiveness.

Better support for the BIO Division of Environmental Biology is a very serious need. NSF's BIO support represents 63 percent of all federal funding for basic research in

environmental biology. Of the non-medical aspects of the biological sciences, BIO is the dominant federal supporter of basic research at academic institutions – providing 66 percent of all support. NSF's contribution to a broad array of the biological sciences is critically important – particularly in such areas as environmental biology and plant sciences.

If continued increased investments are not made in environmental biology, the younger generation of ecological scientists at our universities will be shut out of graduate study, and the contributions they should be making to our improved understanding of the environment will never happen. These young scientists need to be empowered to help us recognize the value of our natural capital, better equipping us to protect the America's long term economic and environmental interests.

Using the University of Alabama as one example out of many BIO-supported universities, BIO's Division of Environmental Biology has been the major source of funding that has supported research and education associated with the Aquatic Biology Program and the Center for Freshwater Studies for the past 15 years. The Ecosystem Science, Ecological Biology, and the Systematic Biology and Inventories clusters have been especially important in supporting individual investigator and interdisciplinary, collaborative projects. These funded projects have been instrumental in furthering our understanding of the important Mobile River System, the largest river system that drains into the Gulf of Mexico, east of the Mississippi River. Additionally, these projects have also supported over 100 undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral students at our institution.

Many recent graduate students that received support from the NSF Division of Environmental Biology are already greatly contributing to the field, especially in recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast. The knowledge gained from their NSF funded projects is especially valuable at a time when both coastal and inland areas along the Gulf coast are increasingly being affected by major hurricanes such as Katrina and Rita. An understanding of the roles of river floodplains and wetlands in mediating major floods and storm surges is critical to effective management and restoration of these environments.

Another program that deserves much support is the NSF-National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), which is envisioned as a continental-scale research and infrastructure platform that will provide unprecedented advances in ecological forecasting and prediction. NEON will transform the way we conduct science by enabling the integration of research and education from natural to human systems, and from genomes to the biosphere. NEON will address many issues critical to the nation's environmental and economic health, including land use and climate change, invasive species, and hurricane effects. We support the current NSF budget request for funding for NEON in the Directorate for Biological Sciences (e.g., Division of Biological Infrastructure and Emerging Frontiers).

Issues of national importance related to the environment, economy, agriculture, and

human welfare require an understanding of how living organisms function and interact with nonliving systems. Advancing fundamental scientific discovery in all aspects of life – from molecules to whole ecosystems – is supported within NSF, where the ability to integrate the range of biological sub-disciplines is unique.

About NASULGC

NASULGC is the nation's oldest higher education association. Currently the association has over 200 member institutions – including the historically black land-grant institutions – located in all fifty states. The Association's overriding mission is to support high quality public education through efforts that enhance the capacity of member institutions to perform their traditional teaching, research, and public service roles.

About the Board on Natural Resources

The Board's mission is to promote university-based programs dealing with natural resources, fish and wildlife, ecology, minerals and energy, and the environment. Most NASULGC institutions are represented on the Board. Present membership exceeds 500 scientists and educators, who are some of the nation's leading research and educational expertise in environmental and natural-resource disciplines.

This testimony was developed for the BNR by the Chair of the BNR's Ecology Section, Dr. Amy Ward, Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Alabama.

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NASULGC National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges

FY 2009 Testimony of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND LAND-GRANT COLLEGES (NASULGC)
BOARD ON OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE (BOA)

To the
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS)

Submitted by Dr. Thomas A. Schroeder, Co-Chair of the NASULGC Board on Oceans and Atmosphere; Director, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research, University of Hawaii at Manoa

On behalf of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges' Board on Oceans and Atmosphere, thank you for the opportunity to provide recommendations for the FY 2009 budgets for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). NOAA, NASA and NSF each play unique roles in a number of high-priority U.S. and international initiatives. All three agencies also support research at our member institutions that provides critical information to policymakers and communities across the country. That is why *we strongly recommend $4.5 billion for NOAA; $380.6 million in the NASA Earth Science Research Account; and the $6.85 billion for NSF. Furthermore, within NOAA, we recommend $471million for the Ocean and Atmospheric Research (OAR), including $72 million for the National Sea Grant Program; $930.7 million for the National Weather Service; $29.5 million the National Ocean Service (NOS) Ocean and Coastal Research Program and the NOS Oceans and Human Health Initiative; $96 million for the Integrated Ocean Observing Systems; and $1.2 billion for the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS). Within NSF, we recommend $848.7 million for the Geosciences Directorate; $98 million for the Academic Research Fleet; and $244.74 million for the Major Research Equipment & Facilities Construction account, including $38 million for the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) and $31 million for the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI).*

About NASULGC

NASULGC is the nation's oldest higher education association. Currently the association has over 200 member institutions – including the historically black land-grant institutions – located in all fifty states. The Association's overriding mission is to support high quality public education through efforts that enhance the capacity of member institutions to perform their traditional

teaching, research, and public service roles.

About the Board on Oceans and Atmosphere

The BOA's primary responsibility is to advance research and education in the marine and atmospheric sciences through a federal relations program. The board currently has approximately 200 regionally distributed members, including some of the nation's most eminent research scientists, chief executive officers of universities, marine and atmospheric scientists, academic deans, and directors of Sea Grant programs.

NOAA

In order to maintain our country's homeland security, scientific leadership, and economic competitive edge, we must have a diverse portfolio of federally supported science research and programs. Consequently, we are concerned about the significant cuts made to NOAA in FY 2006, 2007, and 2008. The science-based work of NOAA protects and impacts every American citizen, everyday. NOAA is the third largest source of funds for academic marine research in the federal government.

In 2004, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP) report "An Ocean Blueprint" recommended an integrated national ocean policy be developed, incorporating ecosystem-based management and end-to-end watershed monitoring. USCOP also recommended doubling the federal ocean research budget and a significant enhancement and expansion of NOAA's coastal, oceanic and atmospheric real-time observing network that will lead to better forecasts of weather events, climate conditions and impending natural hazards. These themes have been reinforced in the recent release of the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology Ocean Research Priorities Implementation Strategy. NOAA remains significantly under-funded despite a growing national focus on the potential impacts of climate change, the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, and the importance of science to American's competitiveness. ***As a member of the Friends of NOAA Coalition, NASULGC strongly recommends $4.5 billion for NOAA in FY 2009.***

This is a reasonable recommendation when one considers that the coastal watershed counties contribute $4.5 trillion to the U.S. economy - half of the Nation's Gross Domestic Product - and over 60 million jobs. For about $15 per person annually, each American receives weather forecasting, hurricane tracking, tornado warnings, tsunami warnings, navigational information, wave forecasting, harmful algal bloom monitoring, coastal pollution monitoring, fisheries management, hazard mitigation, scientific research, and local community assistance. On behalf of all of us, NOAA oversees the Nation's environmental observing networks and satellites, and provides science-based management of many valuable marine resources. The bottom line is that NOAA affects and provides important services to all Americans, so it is time for Congress to demonstrate its commitment to the NOAA programs that are vital to our economy and to the health and well being.

As members of the oceanic and atmospheric academic community we further recommend a portion of that $4.5 billion be used to support the following programs and activities:

$471 million for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), including $72 million for the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant). The FY08 enacted level is $380 million

while the President's FY09 request is $382 million. The basic research conducted through the OAR line office and its partnerships with universities helps us understand climate variability, provide better protection for coastal resources, contributes to our Nation's commerce, and supports our transportation systems. OAR supports such important programs as the Ocean Exploration, the National Undersea Research Program, US THORPEX medium-range forecast improvement research program, transition research for new operational forecast models, Climate Operations and Sea Grant.

For Sea Grant, the FY08 enacted is $57.1 million while the President's FY09 request is $55 million. In constant dollars, the program is at its lowest funding levels since its inception four decades ago. Sea Grant is the flagship program between NOAA and the academic community, supporting the work of 31 colleges located in coastal and Great Lakes states and serving as the core of a national network of more than 300 institutions involving more than 3,000 scientists, educators, students, and outreach experts.

BOA supports the President's request of $930.7 million for the National Weather Service (NWS). The FY08 enacted is $805.3 million. NWS provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the U.S., for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, academia, the private sector, the public, and the global community.

$29.5 million for the extramural portions of both the NOS ocean and coastal research program and the Oceans and Human Health Initiative (OHHI). The FY08 enacted level is $3 million while the President's FY09 request is $1mil. Within the NOS, BOA supports restoration of the drastic cuts in competitive extramural research, bringing funding back to the more sustainable and effective level provided in FY 2005. In addition, we support the appropriation of sufficient funds for full NOAA participation in collaborative NOS science programs, particularly OHHI. NOS support for extramural research conducted in cooperation with NOAA scientists is leading to improved knowledge and forecasts to address complex problems such as harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, coastal stressors and ecosystem-based management of fisheries.

$96 million for the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), (including $50 million for Regional Ocean Observing Systems (ROOS), $10 million for data management and communications, $30 million for IOOS enhancements and $6 million for global ocean observing system enhancements). FY 08 enacted is $26.4 million while the President's FY09 request is $6.5 million for NOAA IOOS and $14.6 million for IOOS Regional Observations (competitive funding). IOOS is critical to improving predictions of climate change and weather, improving the safety of maritime operations, and reducing public health risks.. While BOA is supportive of NOAA's inclusion of IOOS in its budget request, funding still falls short of last year's funding by $5 million, and we prefer placing the vast majority of funding for IOOS into competitive funding for the ROOS.

BOA supports the President's FY09 request of $1.2 billion for NESDIS. BO A strongly supports the building and strengthening of NOAA's satellite systems. The Geostationary

Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES), because these programs are extremely important to timely and accurate weather forecasts and detection and observations of meteorological phenomena that directly affect public safety, protection of property, and economic health and development. In supporting this request, however, BOA is concerned that the increase in satellite budget for the GOES not come at the expense of other programs within NOAA. Money directed to the satellite programs should be in addition to funding of other NOAA programs, including any increases in those programs.

NASA

Last year, the National Research Council released its report, "Earth Science and Applications from Space: National Imperatives for the Next Decade and Beyond." The report found that between 2000 and 2006, funding for Earth Sciences (ES) has fallen from $2 billion to $1.5 billion annually. ES research is absolutely critical to understanding global climate change, such as the decline of Earth's ice sheets or the health of the global oceans. ***BOA generally supports the findings of this report, and we urge the committee to increase the ES funding levels consistent with the report's recommendations so that future missions as well as research and analysis (R&A) are supported.*** It is also critical to continually evaluate the scientific priorities of future missions so that mission priorities can be adjusted to provide the most benefit and imminent gaps in capabilities and systematic observations can be addressed. ***For this reason, BOA recommends additional funding to support a gap analysis of critical systematic and emerging science priorities and to adjust mission strategies as appropriate, including the development of new mission plans where appropriate.***

ES activities currently fall within the agency's Science Mission Directorate. We continue to see ES activities, such as R&A in the past five years, being cut because of other agency priorities. NASA's traditional robust research and development funding has been very important for our member universities. NASA's investments in the ES fund university research that has resulted in valuable advances in weather forecasting, improved climate projections, and understanding of Earth ecosystems. Without the tools provided by NASA, oceanographers and the nation would have a much less complete picture of the planet's oceans and the impact of a changing climate on coastal areas.

Furthermore, the R&A program within ES is the primary mechanism for funding to the academic community. Through its support for young scientists and graduate students, the R&A program supports innovation in ES and technology using NASA's satellite missions. New sensor concepts, new data processing algorithms, and new approaches to global-scale ES are the legacy of the research funded by the R&A program. In view of the rapid changes taking place in global climate, weather, ice cover, carbon cycle science and ecosystems, it is essential that NASA maintain a strong level of R&A funding to derive maximum benefit from today's missions as well as to support the innovation needed to develop the missions of tomorrow. ***To ensure the viability and effectiveness of our ES R&A programs, BOA supports restoring Earth Science+ funding to FY 2000 levels, an increase of approximately 33%.***

NSF

BOA welcomes the renewed national focus on scientific research and education as illustrated by the passage of the American COMPETES Act. ***BOA supports the President's NSF FY 2009 budget request of $6.85 billion. The FY08 enacted is $6.06 billion.***

BOA recommends that a portion of that $6.85 billion be used to support the following program:

BOA supports the President's request of $848.7 million for the Geosciences Directorate. No specific numbers for the Geosciences Directorate were enacted for FY08. As the principal source of federal funding for university-based fundamental research in the geosciences, GEO addresses the Nation's need to understand, predict, and respond to environmental events and changes. GEO-supported research also advances our ability to predict natural phenomena of economic and human significance, such as climate changes, weather, earthquakes, marine ecosystem change, and disruptive events in the solar-terrestrial environment.

$244.74 million for the Major Research Equipment & Facilities Construction Account, (MREFCA) and within MREFCA, $31 million for the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) and $38 million for the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP). The FY08 enacted for MREFCA is $220.74 million, while the President's FY09 request is $ 147.51million. No specific FY08 numbers were enacted for OOI or IODP. The President's FY09 request is $10.50 million for OOI and $47.74 million for IODP.

The OOI will provide the oceanographic research and education communities with continuous, interactive access to the ocean. Through a global-scale array, a regional-scaled cabled network, and a network of coastal observatories, scientists will be able to study multiple, interrelated processes over variable timescales. Real-time data transmission and visual images from the seafloor will create new ocean education and outreach opportunities. OOI will also provide the ideal platform for training a new generation of oceanographer skilled in the use and manipulation of large, oceanographic, time-series datasets, a necessity given the planned establishment of the National Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS).

The IODP is an international partnership of scientists, research institutions, and agencies using ocean drilling to explore the evolution and structure of Earth and its oceans as recorded in the ocean basins. As part of its co-leadership of IODP with Japan, NSF will provide a light drillship and science support services for high-resolution studies of environmental and climate change, observatory and biosphere objectives. The contracting, conversion, outfitting and acceptance trials of a new Scientific Ocean Drilling Vessel (SODV) will enable NSF to move forward with its portion of IODP.

$98 million for the Academic Research Fleet (ARF). Finally, to utilize and optimize the potential of these ocean research infrastructures, operating and maintenance funding will be required. No specific funding was enacted for ARF in FY08. The administration's FY09 request is $83.96 million.

Thank you for taking time to review our recommendations.

U.S. Commissioners
David Bedford
Jeff Koenings
Olney Patt Jr.
Larry Rutter

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TESTIMONY OF W. RON ALLEN
CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. SECTION BUDGET COMMITTEE
U.S. SECTION OF THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 19, 2008

Mr. Chairman, my name is W. Ron Allen and I serve as an Alternate Commissioner on the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) and as the Chair of the Budget Committee for the U.S. Section of the Commission. The Pacific Salmon Treaty (Treaty) between the U.S. and Canada was established in 1985. An Agreement was concluded in June of 1999 (1999 Agreement) that established new abundance-based fishing regimes under the Treaty and made other improvements in the Treaty's structure. During FY 2009, the PSC will implement new Treaty fishing regimes that are currently being renegotiated. The U.S. Section recommends that Congress:

- fund the Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item of the National Marine Fisheries Service at $8,000,000 for FY 2009, restoring $1,000,000 previously provided by Congress in FY 2005. This funding provides the technical support for the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho and the National Marine Fisheries Service to implement the salmon stock assessment and fishery management programs required to implement the Treaty fishing regimes. Included within the total amount of $8,000,000 is $400,000 to continue a joint Transboundary River Enhancement Program as required by the Treaty.

- fund the Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook Salmon Agreement line item of the National Marine Fisheries Service for FY 2009 at $1,844,000, level funding from what was provided by Congress for fiscal year 2008. This funding continues to be necessary to acquire the technical information to implement abundance-based Chinook salmon management program provided for under the Treaty.

The base Treaty implementation projects include a wide range of stock assessment, fishery monitoring, and technical support activities for all five species of Pacific salmon in the fisheries and rivers from Southeast Alaska to those of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), are charged with carrying out a major portion of the salmon fishery stock assessment and harvest management actions required under the Treaty. Federal funding for these activities is provided through NMFS on an annual

basis. The agency projects carried out under PSC funding are directed toward acquiring, analyzing, and sharing the information required to implement the salmon conservation and sharing principles of the Treaty. A wide range of programs for salmon stock size assessments, escapement enumeration, stock distribution, and catch and effort information from fisheries, are represented. The information from many of these programs is used directly to establish fishing seasons and harvest levels.

Congress increased this funding in FY 2005 to a total of $8,000,000 to provide for programs needed to implement the new abundance-based fishing regimes established under the 1999 Agreement, but the level was reduced in subsequent years. The U.S. Section recommends that $8,000,000 be restored in FY 2009 to allow full implementation of Treaty provisions. The 1999 Agreement and the fishery regimes currently being renegotiated, include fishing arrangements and abundance-based management approaches for Chinook, southern coho, Northern Boundary and Transboundary River fisheries. The $400,000 that has been provided since 1988 for a joint Transboundary River enhancement program with Canada is included in this amount.

In 1996, the U.S. adopted an abundance-based approach to managing Chinook salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska. Under this approach, Chinook harvest levels are based on annual estimates of Chinook abundance. This system replaced fixed harvest ceilings agreed to in 1985, which did not respond to annual fluctuations in Chinook salmon populations. Under the 1999 Agreement, this abundance-based management approach was expanded to all Chinook fisheries subject to the Treaty. Beginning in FY 1998, Congress provided $1,844,000 to allow for the collection of necessary stock assessment and fishery management information to implement the new approach. Through a rigorous competitive technical review process, the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and the twenty-four treaty tribes are using the funding to support research and data collection needed to implement abundance-based Chinook salmon management coast-wide under the new Agreement. The U.S. Section recommends level funding of $1,844,000 for FY 2009 to support the implementation of abundance-based Chinook salmon management.

The U.S. and Canada agreed in 1988 to a joint salmon enhancement program on the Transboundary Rivers, which rise in Canada and flow to the sea through Southeast Alaska. Since 1989, Congress has provided $400,000 annually for this effort through the National Marine Fisheries Service International Fisheries Commission line item under the Conservation and Management Operations activity. Canada provides an equal amount of funding and support for this bilateral program. This funding is included in the $8,000,000 the U.S. Section is recommending for the FY 2009 NMFS Pacific Salmon Treaty line item.

This concludes the Statement of the U.S. Section of the PSC submitted for consideration by your committee. We wish to thank the Committee for the support that it has given us in the past.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE U.S.-CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item

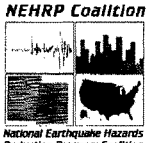
FY 07 Appropriation	FY 08 Appropriation	FY 09 Administration Request	FY 09 U.S. Section Recommendation
$7,000,000	$5,592,000	$5,616,000	$8,000,000

The recommended FY 08 amount includes $400,000 provided for the Joint Transboundary River Enhancement Program previously funded under the NMFS International Fisheries Commission account.

Pacific Salmon Treaty – Chinook Salmon Agreement Line Item

FY 07 Appropriation	FY 08 Appropriation	FY 09 Administration Request	FY09 U.S. Section Recommendation
$1,844,000	$1,844,000	$1,844,000	$1,844,000

NEHRP Coalition



National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Coalition

American Council of Engineering Companies ♦ American Geological Institute ♦ American Geophysical Union ♦ American Institute of Architects ♦ American Public Works Association ♦ American Society of Civil Engineers ♦ Earthquake Engineering Research Institute ♦ Consortium of Universities for Research in Earthquake Engineering ♦ International Code Council ♦ Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform ♦ National Fire Protection Association ♦ Portland Cement Association ♦ Seismological Society of America

For More Information:
202/789-7850 (ASCE)
510/451-0905 (EERI)
www.nehrp.org

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

The NEHRP Coalition encourages realistic, comprehensive, and affordable measures to reduce the harmful effects of earthquakes nationwide. The Coalition represents the views of over 250,000 scientists, engineers, architects, and emergency response leaders of the earthquake community.

Statement Of
National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program
(NEHRP) Coalition
Before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
On the Budget for the National Science Foundation
and the
National Institute of Standards and Technology
For the Fiscal Year 2009

In October 2004, the President signed Public Law 108-360 reauthorizing the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) for five years. As the representatives of the professions most responsible for mitigating the affects of earthquakes, we know the benefits this program holds for the nation.

For the past 30 years NEHRP has provided the resources and leadership that have led to significant advances in understanding the risk earthquakes pose and the best ways to counter them. Under NEHRP, there has been a constant source of funding for seismic monitoring, mapping, research, testing, code development, mitigation, and emergency preparedness. A recent study and report by the Multihazard Mitigation Council entitled "*Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: An Independent Study to Assess the Future Savings from Mitigation Activities,*" has concluded the money spent on reducing the risk of natural hazards is a sound investment. On average, a dollar spent on hazard mitigation provides the nation about $4 in future benefits. The type of research to be conducted under this program has the potential to increase the benefit greatly.

The program has been authorized at $191.8 million for FY 2009. The NEHRP office at NIST estimates the total funding request for the program for FY 2009 is $124.5 million. The funding is split between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). **The NEHRP Coalition supports full funding for NEHRP.**

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The reauthorization of NEHRP has given the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) new responsibility as the lead agency for NEHRP and an expanded role in problem-focused research and development in earthquake engineering. The NEHRP Coalition is pleased that the Administration has signaled its commitment to earthquake programs by highlighting a focus on earthquakes within the NIST FY 2009 budget request.

In the FY 2009 budget request for NIST, the Administration notes that "*A critical gap exists between the results produced by basic research and the implementation of that knowledge in the field. New construction materials, techniques, building codes, and standards do not reflect the current state of knowledge. Through the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), NIST is tasked with conducting problem-focused research to bridge this gap and to promote its application by the private sector.*"

To achieve this goal, the Administration requested $3.3 million for the NEHRP office at NIST. The NEHRP Coalition supports this request and urges Congress to go further and appropriate the full $14.6 million as authorized by law.

The Coalition is pleased that the Administration has requested the $3.3 million for the NEHRP programs at NIST. The Administration requested funding $3.25 million for FY 2008 – the first ever direct line item request for this office - and both the House and Senate approved this funding. However, this funding was removed at the last minute and was not contained in the final FY 2008 Omnibus funding legislation.

In addition to its leadership role, NIST is now specifically tasked to carry out problem-focused research and development in earthquake engineering aimed at improving building codes and standards for both new and existing construction and advancing seismic practices for structures and lifelines. Research that aids not only earthquake resilience, but the potential to mitigate against a host of natural and man-made hazards.

The Coalition also supports the Administration's request for $4 million for Disaster Resilient Structures and Communities. The proposal will permit NIST to carry further research into disaster resistance through research and the development of tools to modernize standards, codes, and practices consistent with the risk.

National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) also has a major role to play within NEHRP. The NSF has the responsibility to advance fundamental knowledge in earthquake engineering, earth science processes, and societal preparedness and response to earthquakes. Additionally, the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake

Engineering Simulation (NEES), operated by NSF, will expand knowledge through new methods for experimental and computational simulation.

The Coalition acknowledges the Administration request of $6.85 billion for NSF, an increase of approximately $800 million over the FY 2008 appropriations. However, in order to carry out the many functions of NSF, including its NEHRP responsibilities, the Coalition urges Congress to fund NSF at its full funding level as authorized by the COMPETES Act of $7.326 billion.

The Coalition further requests that Congress direct NSF to acknowledge the $64.7 million funding level for NEHRP responsibilities at NSF for FY 2009 and to urge NSF to fulfill that obligation. We further support the Administration's request of $23.02 million for the operation of the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation at NSF and ask that Congress urge NSF to maximize the potential of Network Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) through research grants.

Background

Earthquakes are among the most devastating of all natural hazards. To find ways to reduce the devastation, NEHRP, enacted in 1977, funds earthquake related activities of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), NSF, and NIST. Despite continuing need, appropriations for NEHRP have decreased significantly in real dollars since the late 1970's.

Earthquake occurrence in the United States is not restricted to any single geographical area. All or parts of 39 states are within zones where the probability of an earthquake occurring exists. Recent research indicates that areas in the eastern and central United States are at greater risk of earthquake occurrence than earlier evidence indicated.

At the same time, NEHRP has provided a wealth of information useful to both the scientific and engineering practice resulting in a significant benefit to the public. The USGS has developed and published uniform earthquake hazard maps that clearly identify the expected earthquake ground shaking at any location in the nation. NSF, through their grants to university researchers, has funded the development of new engineering analysis and design techniques that allow engineers to make better and more cost effective decisions related to seismic design. FEMA has been able to leverage a small amount of funding into an impressive series of design guidelines, standards, and codes that have spread the experience of a few to engineers nationwide. NIST has developed standards for federal buildings that have encouraged owners nationwide to recognize the earthquake vulnerabilities of their communities. It has been a successful program with significant results.

The Coalition

The Coalition represents the views of over 250,000 scientists, engineers, architects, and emergency response leaders of the earthquake community. The NEHRP Coalition encourages the continuing development of comprehensive, realistic, and affordable measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes to acceptable levels nationwide.

The Coalition is ready to work with the Appropriations Committee and the full Congress to support the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. For a relatively modest investment, great savings, both in lives and economic loss, can be realized. Please do not hesitate to contact Martin Hight at 202-789-7843 or mhight@asce.org if we can be of assistance.

Testimony Submitted

by

Dr. Raymond Bye, Jr.

Director of Federal Relations

The Florida State University

Before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

Committee on Appropriations

U.S. House of Representative

March 19, 2008

Summary of Request: Florida State University is requesting **$3,000,000** from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Air Research Laboratory (ARL) Account to fund the **Center for Vapor Mercury in the Atmosphere**.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and the Members of the Subcommittee for this opportunity to present testimony before this Committee. I would like to take a moment to briefly acquaint you with Florida State University.

Located in Tallahassee, Florida's capitol, FSU is a comprehensive Research I university with a rapidly growing research base. The University serves as a center for advanced graduate and professional studies, exemplary research, and top-quality undergraduate programs. Faculty members at FSU maintain a strong commitment to quality in teaching, to performance of research and creative activities, and have a strong commitment to public service. Among the current or former faculty are numerous recipients of national and international honors including Nobel laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, and several members of the National Academy of Sciences. Our scientists and engineers do excellent research, have strong interdisciplinary interests, and often work closely with industrial partners in the commercialization of the results of their research. Florida State University had over $190 million this past year in research awards.

Florida State University attracts students from every state in the nation and more than 100 foreign countries. The University is committed to high admission standards that ensure quality in its student body, which currently includes National Merit and National Achievement Scholars, as well as students with superior creative talent. Since 2005, FSU students have won more than 30 nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships including 2 Rhodes Scholarships, 2 Truman Scholarships, Goldwater, Jack Kent Cooke and 18 Fulbright Fellowships.

At Florida State University, we are proud of our successes as well as our emerging reputation as one of the nation's top public research universities.

Mr. Chairman, let me summarize our primary interest today.

Mercury is one of two very toxic trace elements known to be best transported through the atmosphere. Local, regional, and global distributions of gaseous elemental mercury are unknown even though vapor mercury is the most important source of anthropogenic mercury to the atmosphere. Most U.S. mercury emissions occur in the northeast yet most mercury deposits fall on Florida and the southeastern coastal zone. Patterns of mercury in local rainfall can be interpreted as either "local source" or "long-distance source" and are thus non-diagnostic. These enormous gaps in scientific understanding undermine public policy initiatives to develop strategies to protect natural environments and human health and to find appropriate energy solutions to our national power and transportation needs.

To this end, FSU is prepared to lead a Southeastern Mercury Consortium to study the large-scale sources and fates of atmospheric mercury. This consortium will be a partnership between NOAA's Air Resources Lab (ARL), Florida State University (FSU) and Georgia Institute of Technology. ARL's mercury research group has pioneered ground and airborne measurements and models of atmospheric mercury. FSU's Oceanography Department and Isotope Geochemistry Programs in the National High Magnetic Field Lab excel in ultra-trace element chemistry and isotopes - including mercury - in global atmospheric and aquatic environments. Georgia Tech's Schools of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences and Civil & Environmental Engineering have extensive regional and global programs in urban photochemistry, "tailpipe" and "smoke stack" gases, and global atmospheric mapping of reactive trace gases and aerosols from research airplanes and satellites. We will concentrate on the two most critical pieces of the puzzle – gaseous elemental mercury and reactive gaseous mercury. This effort will fill the gap we now have in the understanding of mercury vapors, so that we can ensure safe power and transportation to our citizens.

Mr. Chairman, this project is extremely important and I appreciate your consideration.

Testimony in Support of Increased FY 2009 Funding for the National Science Foundation

March 25, 2008

Submitted by:

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and

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Submitted to:
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) encourages the Committee to provide the National Science Foundation (NSF) with $7.326 billion for fiscal year (FY) 2009, the funding level authorized by the America COMPETES Act.

AIBS is a nonprofit scientific association dedicated to advancing biological research and education for the welfare of society. Founded in 1947 as a part of the National Academy of Sciences, AIBS became an independent, member-governed organization in the 1950s. AIBS is sustained by a robust membership of some 5,000 biologists and nearly 200 professional societies and scientific organizations; the combined individual membership of the latter exceeds 250,000. AIBS advances its mission through participating in coalition activities in research, education, and public policy; publishing the peer-reviewed journal *BioScience* and the education Web site *ActionBioscience.org*; providing scientific peer review and advisory services to government agencies and other clients; convening meetings; and managing scientific programs.

The FY 2008 omnibus appropriations provided only a 2.5 percent increase over FY 2007 funding for the NSF. This appropriation disappointed many in the science community who had hoped for the 10 or 11 percent increase pledged by Congress through House and Senate Appropriations Committee marks, respectively.

Although the President's FY 2009 budget request recognizes the need to increase funding for the NSF, the request would only provide a modest two-year adjustment for NSF programs such as the Biological Sciences directorate (BIO). Thus, we encourage the Committee to work to provide NSF funding at the level authorized in the America COMPETES Act (PL 110-69), which, with the Committee's prior guidance to the Administration to support all NSF research directorates, would enable a modest increase for BIO and the Social, Behavioral and Economics directorate (SBE).

Invigorating our innovation enterprise, improving science education, strengthening research infrastructure, and addressing energy, security, and environmental problems are bipartisan national priorities. NSF is the primary federal agency that funds fundamental research through competitively awarded, peer-reviewed, extramural grant programs. These research grants drive discovery and have enabled the United States to remain a global economic and scientific leader. Moreover, NSF-sponsored biological sciences research is transformative and leads to the development of sustainable and cost-effective solutions for society's greatest challenges, including energy independence, climate change, and security.

NSF's BIO directorate is vital to our nation's continued leadership in the biological sciences, the fields of science dedicated to understanding how organisms and ecological systems function. Research disciplines heavily dependent upon the directorate include botany, ecology, microbiology, zoology, basic molecular and cellular biology, and systematics and taxonomy. Equally important, NSF provides essential support for our nation's biological research infrastructure, such as field stations and natural science collections (e.g. university-based natural history museums), and education and training programs for undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students.

According to government data, BIO provides 67 percent of federal grant support for fundamental biological research conducted at our nation's universities and other nonprofit research centers. Transformative research in the biological sciences has advanced our understanding of complex living systems and is leading the way forward in addressing major challenges – protecting the environment, conserving biodiversity, and developing new bio-inspired technology. In fact, during a hearing before this Subcommittee on 27 February 2008, NSF Director Arden Bement referred to this century as "the bio century" and went on to explain that bioscience is "where the fundamental work is being done." Indeed, biological research from molecules and cells to ecosystems is the backbone supporting major cross-foundation initiatives, including Adaptive Systems Technology and Dynamics of Water Processes in the Environment (WATER). To continue to support activities across the Foundation, it is critical that BIO receives appropriate funding to advance its core research programs.

The President's FY 2009 budget request would provide $5.594 billion to support disciplinary research programs within the Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account. This funding level would provide an average 16.0 percent increase over FY 2008 estimated appropriations for the R&RA account; however, within R&RA, proposed budget increases are spread unevenly among the directorates. For example, the Mathematical and Physical Sciences directorate would increase $235.36 million (20.2 percent) and the Engineering directorate would increase $122.46 million (19.2 percent) over their respective FY 08 estimated appropriations while BIO is slated

for just a $63.04 million increase (10.3 percent). This pattern would be understandable and acceptable if it were a one-year anomaly. However, this pattern of funding has become the norm – leaving some directorates, such as BIO, SBE and Geosciences behind.

In contrast, COMPETES authorizes $5.742 million for R&RA in FY 2009, and would provide an average 19.1 percent increase over FY 2008 appropriations. Moreover, COMPETES-authorized funding levels would provide NSF with the necessary funding to provide BIO with a 19 percent increase, placing it more on-par with the trajectory of other directorates.

Administration officials point to the importance of aligning the budget with priorities articulated in both the American Competitiveness Initiative and the America COMPETES Act. Yet, language in COMPETES (Public Law No: 110-69, Sec. 7018(b)) calls for parity in funding among scientific disciplines by specifying, "The Director shall give priority in the selection of awards and the allocation of Foundation resources to proposed research activities, and grants funded under the Foundation's Research and Related Activities Account, that can be expected to make contributions in physical or natural science, technology, engineering, social sciences, or mathematics, or that enhance competitiveness, innovation, or safety and security in the United States."

Indeed, research in the biological sciences has directly contributed to the development of new technologies and has advanced our understanding of life in critical areas, including genomics, emerging diseases, ecosystem services, global change, nanotechnology, and complex systems. Such research has led to important discoveries with implications for American competitiveness and public health and safety. For example, scientists at Arizona State University funded through BIO used a special laser to analyze the split-second process within photosynthesis where plants harness light energy; their research may have important implications for the development of solar energy technologies. It is imperative that we understand how biological systems – whether a microbe or an ecosystem – function so that we can address current issues like global change and can innovate solutions to additional challenges that will likely emerge in the future.

We sincerely thank the committee for recognizing the importance of balanced investments in last year's Report (H. Rept. 110-240):

"The Committee strongly supports increases for the math and physical sciences, computer sciences, and engineering directorates in fiscal year 2008 for research and related activities (R&RA). However, the Committee also believes the Foundation should maintain comparable growth in fiscal year 2008 for the biological sciences, geosciences, and social, behavioral and economic sciences directorates. As the Innovation Agenda moves forward, it is important to note that maintaining U.S. competitiveness will depend on advances in, and the interactions among, all fields of science. The Committee expects NSF to ensure that the biological sciences, geosciences, and social, behavioral, and economic sciences directorates receive increases in fiscal year 2008 that are comparable to the other directorates."

Members of the biological sciences community are concerned that inadequate funding is being provided to fundamental biological and environmental sciences. Biological research is central to

our ability to understand and respond to the emerging threats and uncertainties associated with global environmental change.

For twelve years, the research grant funding rate for BIO has been consistently lower than the NSF-wide funding rate. In 2008, the research grant funding rate was only 15 percent compared with an agency-wide rate of 21 percent. Unfortunately, this trend occurs at a time when BIO is contributing the largest percentage of federal dollars to basic biological sciences research and the number and scope of problems requiring biological information continues to increase.

Key Areas

Increased funding for NSF at the level authorized by the America COMPETES Act would enable more robust investment in the five core programs supported by BIO: Molecular and Cellular Biosciences; Integrative Organismal Systems; Environmental Biology; Biological Infrastructure; and Emerging Frontiers.

The FY 2009 budget request includes important funding for the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), the first national ecological measurement and observation system designed to answer regional- to continental-scale scientific questions. NEON is an innovative facility that is designed to transform the way science and education are conducted by enabling integration of data from natural- to human-dominated systems and from genomes to the biosphere. A total of $26 million has been requested for NEON in the FY 2009 BIO budget. Roughly $16 million would be funded from Emerging Frontiers and $10 million from Biological Infrastructure.

BIO provides essential support for the development and maintenance of other important research infrastructure (e.g., natural science collections and field stations) that is necessary to advance our understanding of biological systems.

Indeed, there is a growing national awareness of the need to reinvest in the physical and personnel resources associated with our nation's scientific collections. Evidence for this may be found in the annual Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum to federal agencies on research and development priorities, which has charged federal agencies to evaluate the needs of the collections they host or support. A federal interagency working group on scientific collections has also been established. As part of this effort, NSF is surveying non-federal research collections to gain a better understanding of the nature of our nation's holdings.

Unfortunately, the FY 2009 budget request for the Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI) is $86.99 million, only 0.1 percent more than DBI's FY 2008 appropriation ($86.94 million). The biological sciences community is increasingly concerned that decreasing investment in the tools of science, namely the facilities, collections, and instruments that enable discovery, will have profound and negative impacts on the science.

Research support is only one of NSF's important missions. NSF is a vital component of our nation's formal and informal science education system. Whether through programs such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates, Integrated Graduate Education and Research

Traineeships, or other fellowships for graduate and post-doctoral researchers, NSF provides the resources required to recruit, educate and train our next generation of scientists. We encourage Congress to continue to support these vital science education programs.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request and for your prior support of the National Science Foundation. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact either of us at 202-628-1500.

Testimony of Howard Silver, Executive Director, Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), to the House Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee, House Appropriations Committee. Honorable Alan Mollohan, Chairman. April 2, 2008.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Howard Silver and I am the Executive Director of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA). The Consortium represents over 110 professional associations, scientific societies, universities and research institutes concerned with the promotion of and funding for research in the social, behavioral and economic sciences. COSSA functions as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community. A list of COSSA's membership is attached.

Like you, COSSA was disappointed in some of the final numbers in the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act. We had hoped the Administration and the Congress could agree on an overall number that would have allowed you to maintain some of the early promising increases for the National Science Foundation and other agencies. We hope the FY 2009 process will work more smoothly.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed FY 2009 budgets for the National Science Foundation (NSF), for which we recommend at least $6.85 billion; the Bureau of Economic Analysis, for which we support the proposed budget of $86.9 million; the Census Bureau, for which we recommend whatever funds, both regular and "emergency" appropriations, that may be necessary to ensure a fair and accurate Census and protect the Bureau's other data collection activities; the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), for which we seek $50 million in program funds, and Bureau of Justice Statistics (NIJ), for which we urge $50 million in program funds. COSSA is well aware that each year you confront difficult choices among competing agencies under the Subcommittee's jurisdiction. We hope that you will give these agencies' needs generous consideration.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

COSSA strongly recommends that NSF receive at least the President's request of $6.85 billion in FY 2008. We recognize that this is below the authorized level of $7.33 billion, that would double NSF's budget in seven years, but we are realistic. We also strongly support the Research and Related Activities request of $5.594 billion.

We realize the NSF FY 2009 budget proposal is driven by the Administration's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI). And we know that the ACI grew out of the National Academies' *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* (RAGS) report. Both of these have asserted that reinvigorating the physical sciences and engineering are a national priority. Yet, there are admonitions from the RAGS report, from the language in the FY 2008 appropriations report, for which we are grateful to this Subcommittee, and from the COMPETES Act, that the social, behavioral and economic (SBE) sciences should not be left behind. COSSA believes the NSF's FY 2008 allocation and the FY 2009 request suggest that is what is happening. There is no apparent increase in the FY 2008 current plan for the SBE directorate and its FY 2009 proposed increase of $18 eighteen million pales in comparison to the $235 million boost for the physical

and mathematical sciences. NSF is extremely important for federal support for basic research in the SBE sciences. For some fields in these sciences, NSF is the only source of federal support for basic research and infrastructure development.

Now is also a time when advances in methodologies, computing power, and interdisciplinary cooperation are helping SBE scientists produce significant results. We need sustained support for the new modes of research, such as collaborations, economic and political laboratories, merged databases, functional MRIs, and virtual centers that have transformed SBE research.

The social and behavioral research portfolio is enormous and supports science of tremendous intellectual excitement and substantial societal importance. Let me list a number of areas, far from a comprehensive list, where social and behavioral research plays a significant role in addressing America's and the world's problems.

1) The Brain/Behavioral Interface – neuroeconomics, law and neuroscience, biomarkers
2) Ethical, Legal and Social Implications (ELSI) –
   Information Technology – privacy, human-machine interfacing
   Nanotechnology – regulatory and safety considerations
3) Climate Change
   Human Dimensions, International Politics, Land Use, Coupled Natural and Human Systems
4) Energy
   Behavior Changes for Conservation – Science Committee Hearing
   Biofuel Impact on Rural America
5) Developing Human Capital
   Language and Other Learning, Skill Formation, Changing Workforce.
6) Social Networks – terrorism, teen sexual behavior
7) Decision Making – under uncertainty, risk taking and risk aversion
8) Organizational Change – virtual organizations, flat pyramids, telecommuting
9) Public Health – obesity, health disparities, lifestyle choices
10) A Fair Society – broadening participation and enhancing diversity
11) A Safe Society – crime and criminal justice
12) Changing Demographics
   International Aspects – global aging, migration, birth and death Rates
   U.S. – internal shifts, immigration
   Changing Family Structure
13) Global Issues – Conflict and Cooperation, Terrorism, Differential Economic Growth, Compatibility of Economic and Political Freedom

As you can recognize, many of these are issues the Congress deals with constantly. Social and behavioral research provides you with answers to many of these vexing problems. Yet, at budget time, we are relatively poor orphans.

Admittedly not all of these issues are related to NSF's agenda. However, basic research on individual, group, and societal behavior is the underpinning for much of the knowledge and insight that policy makers bring to coping with these issues. Of course, we understand, as

political science studies have shown, that research results are not the only consideration used by policy makers.

Some specific SBE-related programs continue, such as the initiative on the Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP). These studies examine how national research and development systems work, how to measure and nurture innovation, and how to direct the nation's investments. Two major competitions have been solicited, generating high demand, and more will follow. Unfortunately, the FY 2008 lack of a spending increase affected the ability of this program to fund some excellent proposals.

The Foundation-wide, SBE-managed, priority called Human and Social Dynamics (HSD) has come to an end. HSD supported projects that investigated the dynamics of human action and development, as well as knowledge about organizational, cultural, and societal adaptation and change. It utilized multidisciplinary research teams and comprehensive, interdisciplinary approaches across the sciences. Two major HSD foci will continue as part of the core programs within SBE: environmental research and the development of international, integrated, microdata sets to enhance analysis of both national and global attitudes and trends.

SBE maintains its support for major long-term data bases such as the Panel Study on Income Dynamics, the General Social Survey, and the American National Election Studies. These three extraordinary sets of time-series data continue to paint a portrait of American's economic, social, and political attitudes and behavior over five decades, while updating their methodology and expanding their scope.

With regard to the Education and Human Resources directorate (EHR), COSSA believes that broadening participation in science, across ALL the sciences, is a worthy endeavor. We support NSF's programs to ensure that all students get a chance to become scientists; including SBE scientists. COSSA recently organized and led a full-day retreat on *Enhancing Diversity in the Sciences* with the participation of representatives from professional associations, scientific societies, NSF, and NIH. Information about the retreat can be found at www.cossa.org

We strongly support the 32 percent proposed budget increase for NSF's Graduate Education programs to provide more fellowships. These have been extremely important for budding scientists across all the disciplines. We also believe in programs that will enhance the quality of teaching in our K-12 system, not only for math and science, but for all subjects. It is clear from NAEP and other tests that American students need help across-the-board.

We also strongly support funding for EHR research that evaluates the effectiveness of these programs and enhances their ability to get the job done right. We also believe that STEM education cannot be done in isolation from social, economic, and cultural factors that influence our education system and its students. The SBE sciences are in the forefront of providing research and evidence for improving how our children learn and survive in the modern, complex societies in which we live. NSF's Science of Leaning Centers program is an important part of this and COSSA strongly supports the continued funding of these Centers found in the Integrated Activities account.

THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU and BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

COSSA is a member of the 2010 Census Advisory Committee and as we move toward that redesigned short-form Census, the large increase proposed for the Bureau's FY 2009 budget becomes imperative if we are to get the count right. We are aware that there are difficulties surrounding the preparations for 2010, particularly with regard to the use of handheld devices t verify addresses and to conduct the nonresponse follow up. We hope that Congress and the Bureau can cooperate to ensure that these problems are straightened out.

Nonetheless, the Census is constitutionally mandated and has an important impact on reapportionment, redistricting, and the distribution of federal and state funds. So we must mak every effort and spend whatever is necessary to make sure we get a fair and accurate count.

In addition, the other regular activities at the Census Bureau should not suffer as a result of the difficulties with the preparations for 2010. The American Community Survey (ACS) has allowed the decennial to become a short-form census and ACS' annual data collections also provide timelier information for use by state and local governments and businesses. The other Bureau activities are also important to maintaining our economic statistical databases that play an important role in employment policy, housing policy, and economic policy and their fundin should be sufficient.

COSSA also supports the increase proposed for the FY 2009 Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) that continues the development of measures of investment in R&D and other knowledg based activities in order to incorporate them into the nation's GDP. BEA also maintains the nation's current income accounts, an important tool for economic policy making.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE (NIJ) and the BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS (BJS)

As your recent hearing with the Office of Justice Programs on March 11 demonstrated, references to the studies and data collections of NIJ and BJS do not necessarily translate into increased budget support. In recent years, these agencies have seen their budgets stagnate and some years go down. We appreciate this Subcommittee's support of the FY 2008 increase for BJS and the strong report language regarding the importance of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). We ask for enhanced resources for these agencies in FY 2009, $50 million in program funds for each agency. The cost of crime to victims and to society is fa out of proportion to the budget for research studies and the collection and analysis of data that are essential to understanding how to effect change with regard to crime and criminal justice.

As you know, the National Academies' Committee on National Statistics has been reviewing BJS' programs. In early January they released their report *Surveying Victims: Options for Conducting the National Crime Victimization Survey*. In many years, NCVS takes up to 60 percent of the BJS budget.

The Committee found that "as currently configured and funded, the NCVS is not achieving and cannot achieve BJS' legislatively mandated goal to 'collect and analyze data that will serve as a continuous and comparable national social indication of the prevalence, incidence, rates, extent, distribution, and attributes of crime.'" They recommend that BJS needs additional funds to "generate accurate measures of victimization, which are as important to understanding crime in the U.S. as the UCR measure of crimes reported to the police." Additional resources will also permit NCVS to provide sub-national data, a sticking point for many practitioners regarding the NCVS.

BJS is also responsible for critical national criminal justice statistical programs that include data on correctional populations and facilities; courts and sentencing; prosecution; civil justice; sex offender registries; and criminal history records. Under the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Improvement Act of 2007, BJS now has an expanded role in improving background checks for firearms purchasers. BJS also provides support to Statistical Analysis Centers in 53 states and territories through the State Justice Statistics (SJS) program, which fulfills part of BJS' mandate to support state statistical efforts. It needs more resources for this expanded agenda.

As noted at your OJP hearing on March 11, the recent increases in crime are not uniform across America. Many large cities continue to show declines, while medium-size cities and rural areas are experiencing difficulties. There are many possible explanations and the sorting out process continues. But it is clear that strategies that worked in some places, "hot spots," community policing, crime mapping, are not working in others. The re-entry of former prison inmates into the general population creates more concerns. COSSA is sponsoring a session on Friday April 4 starting at 8:30 a.m. in B-340 RHOB on *Violent Crime: What's Happening and Why.* Distinguished criminologists and a former judge will discuss this problem. NIJ needs more resources to support further explorations of this differentiation that now marks criminal activity.

The National Academies' has also begun a study of NIJ's research activities. COSSA testified to that panel in December of last year. The NIJ social science portfolio has been limited in recent years, as budgets have decreased and the fascination with technological fixes continues. COSSA has nothing against technology, but as has been proven in so many areas, human behavior and social conditions often thwart technology-driven solutions and thus the focus, we believe has to shift.

In July of each year, NIJ convenes a large R&D conference that examines major issues facing the criminal justice community. It is a special opportunity to bring together scientists, practitioners, and policy makers to interact and cooperate on setting research agendas.

Again, I understand that this is expected to be another difficult year for the appropriations' process. COSSA hopes that when you consider the FY 2009 funding for the agencies I discussed, you will treat them as generously as you can.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views.

Testimony Regarding the FY09 Budget Request
Submitted 28 March 2008

John Snow, Director, Oklahoma Weather Center
Ray Ban, Executive Vice President, The Weather Channel

Co-Chairs of the Weather Coalition

Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

We submit this written testimony for the record of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and Commerce, and Related Agencies. We serve as the two Co-Chairs of the Weather Coalition.

The Weather Coalition brings together representatives of industry, academia, and scientific and professional associations to advocate effectively for initiatives that advance U.S. weather observation, prediction, and warning capabilities. The Weather Coalition's mission is to identify and advocate for the common priorities of the diverse members of the national weather enterprise. In particular we support national initiatives that expand research and development collaborations among industry, academia, and government agencies; support the establishment of a robust Earth observing system; and support the infrastructure, including human and computing resources, necessary to use global observations effectively for research and operations.

The Weather Coalition is greatly concerned about decreasing investments in real terms for NOAA and NASA. These are the two key agencies that provide the necessary surface-based and satellite observations to support operational forecasting. These agencies also support much of the basic and applied research that leads to continued improvements in prediction models. And NOAA in particular has a central role in providing information and decision support tools to a wide range of government, private sector and individual end users, enabling the nation to respond effectively to imminent short-term threats from weather hazards and to plan and prepare for the long-term future of the United States as we move into an uncharted climate. NOAA observational data and information products support a vibrant and growing private sector weather industry, which in turn provides highly-tailored products to weather-dependent components of the national economy. **Thus, we support an FY09 request of $4.5 billion for NOAA overall, and $4.583 billion for NASA's Science Mission Directorate.**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA is simply being asked to do too much with too small a budget. Over the last few years the NOAA budget has not kept pace with inflation. The agency faces increased demands for weather and climate data and analysis. Major investments are needed to maintain, replace and upgrade critical elements of NOAA observing systems, including both satellite-based sensors and ground-based weather radar. The America COMPETES Act, signed into law last August, states that NOAA "shall be a full participant in any interagency effort to promote innovation and economic competitiveness through near-term and long-term basic scientific research and

development and the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education consistent with the agency mission, including authorized activities." Yet agency funding is not keeping pace with the wide-ranging and growing workload.

The atmospheric sciences community appreciates the Administration's request of $4.1 billion for FY09, but this increase of 5.5 percent over FY08 will primarily augment the satellite programs while others important programs are short-changed. ***We urge the Members to support an appropriation of at least $4.5 billion for NOAA in FY09 – a level recommended by the Senate for the past three fiscal years and endorsed by the multi-sector Friends of NOAA Coalition -- and to do so while maintaining vital support for other portions of the Subcommittee's research and development portfolio.*** While this amount is not sufficient to meet all of NOAA's current obligations well, it would at least begin to alleviate the pressures that have built up over many years and set a more realistic (although still inadequate) base on which to organize and mobilize this agency to meet current and future obligations.

NOAA has the potential to make much greater contributions, but the agency is struggling. There simply must be a better balance between NOAA's infrastructure, operations, and research funding, as well as effective management and organizational structure at all levels, for this agency to accomplish its mission. In this regard, we strongly believe that NOAA would benefit from both an Organic Act and the creation of an Independent Advisory Committee. An Organic Act would provide a single clear statutory authority for NOAA's mission and improve upon the confusing array of current directives. A federally chartered advisory committee should be established to operate within the NOAA policy-making process with regard to weather and climate operations and services, complementing the overall responsibilities of the existing NOAA Science Advisory Board. This would allow for meaningful public-private coordination and cooperation with respect to the weather and climate enterprise which would serve to leverage all assets in the Enterprise to provide the greatest value proposition to the nation. ***We recognize that these issues go beyond the immediate FY09 appropriations issues, but urge the Members to include in the FY09 funding bill language that directs that a NOAA advisory committee for the weather and climate enterprise be created and supports a NOAA Organic Act.***

National Weather Service (NWS). Within NWS, we fully support the FY09 requested program change highlights including support for weather data buoys to enhance hurricane and severe storm observations, the effort to develop enhanced fire weather modeling capability, and additional water vapor sensors that contribute to improved weather aviation services within the Integrated Upper Air Observing System. **We urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $930.7 million for the NWS, for the combined ORF and PAC accounts.**

Ground-based radar program are of particular importance to the weather community. Despite some additional funding in the FY09 request for the Profile Replacement Program, this program is still underfunded given the pressing need to convert the wind profiler network operating frequency before it is taken over by search-and-rescue satellites. NOAA NWS should also be given adequate funding to ensure full deployment of the dual polarization upgrades to the national network of NEXRAD/WSR-88 D radars

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). The FY09 request moves the US Weather Research Program (USWRP) from the National Weather Service back to OAR. This chronically underfunded program will fund THORpex, a multi-year international field experiment to improve two to ten-day forecasts, as well as experimental hurricane forecasting work. USWRP also funds the Developmental Testbed Center, a critical program for evaluating the forecasting skill of weather models and helping to move research advances into the hands of operational forecasters.

Within OAR Weather and Air Quality Research, hurricane forecast improvement should be more actively pursued. NOAA has a key role in research activities to improve hurricane forecasting, and in particular a focus on improving the fundamental understanding and forecasting skill of hurricane intensity. NOAA operational forecasting will also be a major beneficiary of hurricane research. ***We urge the Members to support the FY09 request of $372.2 million (Operations, Research and Facilities -- ORF) for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.***

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS). We support the additional funding for NESDIS for the geostationary satellite series, GOES-R, which provides important data for weather forecasts and warnings. We are concerned that the FY09 request underfunds the NESDIS Data Centers which store and distribute satellite data. The work of the Data Centers is unglamorous compared to the satellite programs, but is a critical element to bring the data to end-users.

We urge the Members to consider the NESDIS Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) account FY09 request level of $1.24 billion to be the base level for this line office; to examine the erosion of funding for the NESDIS Data Canters and appropriate for them an inflationary increase; and to continue to pursue solutions to this nation's critical Earth observing program.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) has a central role in the nation's satellite programs and a key role in supporting federal research. Yet despite increasing policy-driven demand for information and analysis the funding in this area is not keeping up with needed support for observing systems and research. The Weather Coalition supports the recommendations of the National Research Council report, *Earth and Science Applications from Space: National Imperatives for the Next Decade and Beyond,* otherwise known as the Decadal Survey. Many of the missions in this report's blueprint provide critical data for weather research and forecasting. ***We urge the Members to make the needed investments to get back on track to implement the Decadal Survey recommendations, and to this end recommend increasing the SMD funding levels to $4.583 billion, $142 million above the FY09 request and sufficient to keep pace with 3 percent inflation.***

On behalf of the Weather Coalition, we thank the Committee for strengthening the nation's investment in the infrastructure, research, and operational programs that will continue to produce a strong national weather enterprise.

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Karl Glasener
Director of Science Policy
American Society of Agronomy
Crop Science Society of America
Soil Science Society of America

March 28, 2008 —BY E-mail to CJ.Approp@mail.house.gov

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-310 Capitol Hill Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510
Attention: Tracey Laturner

RE: FY09 Appropriations—Support for National Science Foundation

Dear Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and Members of the Subcommittee:

The **American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America (ASA-CSSA-SSSA)** are pleased to submit the following funding recommendations for FY 2009 (FY09). ASA-CSSA-SSSA understand the challenges the House Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee faces with the tight science budget for FY09. We also recognize that the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill has many valuable and necessary components, and we applaud the efforts of the Subcommittee to fund critical research through the National Science Foundation (NSF). ASA-CSSA-SSSA recommend the Subcommittee increase funding for NSF in FY09 by 21% over FY 2008 (FY08) to $7.326 billion, the funding level authorized by America Competes Act (ACI).

With more than 25,000 members and practicing professionals, ASA-CSSA-SSSA are the largest life science professional societies in the United States dedicated to the agronomic, crop and soil sciences. ASA-CSSA-SSSA play a major role in promoting progress in these sciences through the publication of quality journals and books, convening meetings and workshops, developing educational, training, and public information programs, providing scientific advice to inform public policy, and promoting ethical conduct among practitioners of agronomy and crop and soil sciences.

Biological Sciences Directorate
Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB)
The Molecular and Cellular Biosciences division of NSF Biology directorate provides funding for critical research that contributes to the fundamental understanding of life processes at the molecular, subcellular, and cellular levels. Programs such as the

Microbial Observatories increase the understanding of microbial distribution in a variety of ecosystems- the first step in evaluating microbial impact on ecosystem function. ASA-CSSA-SSSA support the proposed increase for MCB to $126.00 million, yet, disagree with the proposed change in priorities. Historically, the division focused on understanding living networks and complex molecular and cellular systems, microbial biology, and fundamental plant biology research. However, priorities for FY09 focus on metagenomics, theoretical and mathematical modeling, synthetic biology, small RNA biology, and the role of intracellular environment on the dynamic structure and function of complex biomolecules. We agree that considerable advances investigating interactions between microbial communities and plants have been made, however critical gaps do remain requiring additional study to understand the complex, dynamic relationships existing between plant and microbial communities.

Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS)

The emergence of a bioeconomy requires greater reliance on plants and crops, further expanding their use into the energy sector. To meet the increased demands and develop more robust crops, additional fundamental understanding regarding the basic biology of these crops is needed. The ***Plant Genome Research Program*** (PGRP) accomplishes these objectives by supporting key NSF projects. The *Developing Country Collaborations in Plant Genome Research* program links US researchers with partners from developing countries to solve problems of mutual interest in agriculture and energy and the environment. Additionally, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the ***Plant Genome Research Program*** has financed the *Maize Genome Sequencing Project* – a sequencing project for one of the most important crop grown globally. Finally, the *International Rice Genome Sequencing Project,* published in 2005 the finished DNA blueprint for rice, a crop fundamental to populations worldwide. To continue the discovery of new innovative ways to enhance crop production for a growing population, sustained funding is needed for similar projects. It is therefore critical the FY09 decision to transfer the ***Plant Genome Research Program*** to IOS does not adversely impact PGRP. ASA-CSSA-SSSA are concerned that dedicated funding for the ***Plant Genome Research Program*** may be directed towards other programs, such as the ***Arabadopsis 2010 Program.*** ASA-CSSA-SSSA recommend that the ***Plant Genome Research Program*** continue to receive the funding intended for it. To ensure adequate funding for all of the programs under IOS, we recommend that it receive an overall 10% increase to $220.86 million.

Emerging Frontiers (EF)

The Emerging Frontiers division supports multidisciplinary research opportunities and networking activities whereby new initiatives will be fostered and subsequently integrated into core programs. The ***Plant Science Cyberinfrastructure Collaborative*** is a critical program funded under EF. Established in FY08, this center establishes multi-disciplinary teams of computational science experts and plant science experts to address evolving critical questions in plant science. ASA-CSSA-SSSA offer full support for the President's proposed $2.48 million increase (37.4%) over FY08 funding levels for the ***Plant Science Cyberinfrastructure Collaborative***.

Geological Sciences Directorate
Atmospheric Sciences (ATM)
Changes in terrestrial systems will have great impact on biogeochemical cycling rates. The Atmospheric Sciences division funds critical programs, such as ***Atmospheric Chemistry***, that increase understanding of biogeochemical cycles. Soils and plants make up one of the largest sinks and sources for several environmentally important elements. ASA-CSSA-SSSA support the President's proposed 13.6% increase in funding for the Atmospheric Science division to $260.58 million.

Earth Sciences (EAR)
The Earth Sciences division supports research emphasizing improved understanding of the structure, composition, and evolution of the Earth, the life it supports, and the processes that govern the formation behavior of the Earth's materials. FY09 priorities will support theoretical research, including the biological geosciences, the hydrologic sciences, and the study of natural hazards. Important programs funded within this division are the ***Critical Zone Observatories***, which focus on watershed scale studies that advance understanding of the integration and coupling of Earth surface processes as mediated by the presence and flux of fresh water. ASA-CSSA-SSSA support the $750,000 increase to this project.

Engineering Directorate
Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental and Transport Systems (CBET)
CBET supports research that enhances the protection of U.S. national health, energy, environment, security, and wealth. CBET supports programs, such as the ***Biotechnology, Biochemical, and Biomass Engineering,*** which offer critical solutions to global environmental problems associated with climate change. The continual funding of the ***Biotechnology, Biochemical, and Biomass Engineering*** program is essential if we are to develop genetically engineered biofuel feedstocks that are more feasible for conversion into biofuels. ASA-CSSA-SSSA agree with the President's recommend $42.34 million increase for CBET to $173.34 million in FY 2009.

Directorate for Education and Human Resources
Division of Graduate Education
ASA-CSSA-SSSA are dedicated to the enhancement of education, and concerned about recent declines in enrollment for these sciences. To remain competitive, scientific fields need to find new, innovative ways to reach students. The programs offered in the Education and Human Resource Directorate accomplish this goal. The ***Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education*** offers graduate students interested in teaching, an opportunity to get into the classroom and teach utilizing new innovative ways of teaching the material. ASA-CSSA-SSSA support the $2.0 million increase to $49.0 million in the President's budget for this program, but request a 10% increase over FY08 funding levels to $51.7 million. Graduate students are the next crop of scientists, therefore opportunities for study must be increased with increasing demands of science. Global problems rely on scientific discovery for their amelioration; therefore it is critical that the U.S. continue to be a leader in graduate education. The ASA-CSSA-SSSA recommend an increase to the ***Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeships (IGERT)*** from no change

from FY08 to an increased level of $30.0 million (20% increase) in FY09. Education is the key for our future competitiveness; therefore it is essential increases in education funding remain on par with goals set forth by ACI, so ASA-CSSA-SSSA recommend an overall increase of 15% in FY09 over FY08 to $832.44 million.

Division of Undergraduate Education
Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program focuses on the education of technicians for the high-technology fields that drive our nation's economy. We support continued funding for this program. ASA-CSSA-SSSA recommend that this program receive a 20% increase over FY08 to $62 million in FY 2009.

NSF-Wide Programs
Dynamics of Water Processes in the Environment
Providing an adequate supply and quantity of water for human use, while maintaining the integrity of natural ecosystems, is one of the greatest challenges facing the country. ASA-CSSA-SSSA support the creation of the multi-disciplinary, muli-scale research program, ***Dynamics of Water Processes in the Environment*** with $10.0 million in FY 2009.

Climate Change Science Program
The Climate Change Science Program, initiated in 2002, provides the Nation and the world with the science-based knowledge to predict, change, manage risk, and take advantage of opportunities resulting from climate change and climate variability. Biological systems are critical to mitigating the impacts and effects of climate change. Additional research is needed to examine potential crop systems, plant traits, wetland properties, and other ecosystem adaptations to help manage climate change. The basic sciences of agro-ecosystems, plant improvement, soils, and riparian and wetland ecology need support. Therefore while ASA-CSSSA-SSSSA maintain the importance of the President's proposed increase to CCSP funding to $220.6 million in FY09; however additional funding is needed for the Biological Sciences. Therefore, ASA-CSSSA-SSSA recommend a 10% increase in the current funding level from BIO to $16.6 million.

As you lead the Congress in deliberation on funding levels for agricultural research and conservation, please consider **American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America** as supportive resources. We hope you will call on our membership and scientific expertise whenever the need arises.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our requests. For additional information or to learn more about the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America (ASA-CSSA-SSSA), please visit www.agronomy.org, www.crops.org or www.soils.org or contact ASA-CSSA-SSSA Director of Science Policy Karl Glasener (kglasener@agronomy.org, kglasener@crops.org, or kglasener@soils.org).

Written Testimony of the American Psychological Association
Steven Breckler, PhD, Executive Director for Science

Submitted April 4, 2008 to the
United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Alan Mollohan, Chairman

Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations for the National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Department of Justice

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The American Psychological Association (APA), a scientific and professional organization of more than 148,000 psychologists and affiliates, is pleased to submit testimony for the record. Because our behavioral scientists play vital roles within the **National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) within the Department of Justice (DOJ)**, APA will address the proposed FY09 research budgets for each of these agencies:

- **APA recommends that the Subcommittee support the President's FY09 request of $6.85 billion for NSF.**
- **APA requests that the Subcommittee provide $18.3 billion for NASA's Vision for Space Exploration program, $671 million for NASA Advanced Capabilities (which houses the Human Research Program), and $594 million for NASA Aeronautics.**
- **APA urges the Subcommittee to reverse the trend of budgetary neglect for NIJ (within DOJ) by providing $50 million in FY 2009 for NIJ programs.**

National Science Foundation

Core Psychological Research at NSF

NSF is the only federal agency whose primary mission is to support basic research and education in math, engineering and science – including the *behavioral and social sciences*. NSF's investment in basic research across these disciplines has allowed for extraordinary scientific and technological progress, ensuring continued economic growth, improvements in the design, implementation and evaluation of public education, strengthened national security, and the generation of cutting edge new knowledge.

APA supports the Administration request of $6.85 billion for NSF in FY09, and urges Congress to implement a doubling of the NSF budget over the next ten years. This is consistent with Administration and Congressional plans to invest substantially in federal science agencies with the capacity to stimulate global competitiveness and innovation. Within the overall NSF budget, APA supports a strong investment in psychological research throughout the research and education directorates foundation-wide, in order to address critical national challenges with an understanding of human behavior at their core. The America COMPETES Act specifically noted the importance of funding the social sciences and this must be reflected in an increase for NSF's

behavioral and social science research portfolio comparable to proposed increases for other sciences at NSF.

Although psychologists receive funding from diverse programs within NSF, most core psychological research is supported by the **Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)**, with its focus on the variables that determine human behavior across all ages, affect interactions among individuals and groups, and decide how social and economic systems develop and change. In addition to core behavioral research in cognitive neuroscience, human cognition and perception, learning and development, and social psychology, SBE also will continue to support the development of science metrics through its **Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP)** research program. Funding SciSIP research is fundamental to identifying processes by which investments in research are transformed into social and economic outcomes, and providing a more effective evaluation of the "return" on scientific investments.

The ***Biological Sciences Directorate*** at NSF also provides support for research psychologists who ask questions about the very principles and mechanisms that govern life at the level of the genome and cell, or at the level of a whole individual, family or species. In previous testimony, APA has expressed concern about diminishing support for key behavioral research programs within this Directorate, most notably those focused on learning and cognition. NSF recognizes the importance of learning and cognition to many branches of science already, and supports Foundation-wide initiatives and individual research projects that seek to understand the neural or genetic mechanisms by which learning occurs, that use learning as an assay for the effects of environmental change on a biological system, that construct and evaluate artificial learning systems, that conceptualize the role of learning in biodiversity and evolution and that apply learning principles to education and workforce challenges.

However, we hope that NSF's focus on transformational science will continue to recognize that behavior links everything from molecular biology to ecology because in a sense behavior is the ultimate genetic phenotype. Animals behave to eat, defend and reproduce, so an understanding of how the molecular processes within and beyond the central nervous system lead to behavior and how behavior serves an adaptive function seems essential to integrating biology across levels. Within the field of animal behavior and cognition there are clear demonstrations that this integration is occurring. For example, individual differences in gene expression can now be linked to individual differences in memory, attention, decision making, individual adaptation and fitness. The opportunity for understanding individual differences is unprecedented.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Behavioral Research is Critical for Space Exploration and Air Safety

Over the last 20 years, the NASA research budget has gone down steadily, with space exploration expanding about the same rate. The result is an increasing gap in life sciences and human factors knowledge – knowled that is critical for successful missions and for improving both the safety and efficiency of our current and fut aerospace systems. Longer space missions place increasing demands on psychological health and performan space. Psychological scientists are meeting these challenges head on by extending the information managem capacity of individuals through computational systems - systems that can sense when the user is overloaded, determine what needs to be done next and automatically adapt. Such systems improve human decision-maki

and allow humans to function in extremely challenging environments, such as space flight. The need for scie based practical principles to enhance systems, interfaces, team dynamics, decision-making, training, and psychological health continues to grow, but with a diminishing research budget, NASA behavioral scientists equipped to take on this crucial task.

In 2005, Congress endorsed the Vision for Space Exploration (VSE) to send humans to the moon and then to Mars. An understanding of human performance in space is critical for VSE, and the ability to measure and p human performance through all mission phases enhances mission safety and mission success. APA urges N to prioritize life sciences and human aeronautics research and to restore its support for these programs to a le commensurate with other NASA programs.

In the NASA Authorization Act of 2005, Congress endorsed the VSE and authorized $18,686,300,000 for FY08. The actual allocation for FY08 shortchanged the agency by over $1 billion. At $17.6 billion, the President's FY09 budget request again shortchanges the agency and fails even to keep pace with inflation. APA requests that NASA's budget be at least $18.3 billion in order for the agency to succeed in moving forward with the VSE while also sustaining its non-Exploration missions.

Human Research Program

Over the past several years, support for programs in the life sciences has diminished significantly, despite a renewed commitment in 2005 to extend human presence in space, and an unprecedented interest in behavioral research. Now, what remains of the Human Research Program is budgeted at $152 million, an increase of just 3.4% over FY08. Human research must be securely and adequately funded and considered an integral component of space mission planning. A successful overall behavioral health program will require a broad perspective, multiple convergent research strategies, and a variety of settings, including space itself. *APA therefore requests that NASA's budget for Advanced Capabilities, which houses the Human Research Program, be increased to the FY08 level of $671 million.*

Aviation Safety

Aeronautics research (including human factors) has long been a cornerstone of NASA. APA applauds NASA Ames Research Center for its historic attention to human factors research but continued cuts to aeronautics programming and a recent reorganization of the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate threaten to dismantle this once world-class center for human factors research. The Aeronautics Research Mission has been re-oriented to emphasize disciplines such as aerodynamics over human performance and operational issues. Further, the agency's FY08 allocation diminished the spending power of the aeronautics program by 40% compared to 2004, forcing NASA centers to cut jobs and university grants in aeronautics research, especially in the area of human performance and aviation safety. NASA's continual underfunding of aeronautics research also poses a significant threat to the Next Generation's (NextGen) schedule and budget. *APA therefore recommends that Congress restore NASA's Aeronautics budget to at least the FY06 level of $594 million.*

Department of Justice – National Institute of Justice

Behavioral and social science research is also essential to improving the criminal justice system. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation arm of the Department of Justice. It funds research in a range of scientific disciplines, including behavioral and social science research aimed at identifying evidence-based solutions for reducing crime and increasing public safety. The Administration has proposed flat funding for NIJ in FY 2009 for a total of $34.7 million, equal to its FY 2008 level and a dramatic 32% decrease from the FY 2007 level of $54.3 million. *APA strongly urges the Committee to reverse this trend of budgetary neglect for NIJ and recommends providing $50 million in FY 2009 for NIJ programs.*

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CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

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UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS
THE HONORABLE ALLAN MOLLOHAN, CHAIRMAN

CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

STATEMENT REGARDING FISCAL YEAR 2009
APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam Schuchat
Executive Officer
California State Coastal Conservancy
March 2008

Summary

On behalf of the California State Coastal Conservancy, I want to thank the Subcommittee for this opportunity to present our priorities for Fiscal Year 2009. The Conservancy respectfully requests the following funding levels needed from the listed NOAA accounts for the implementation of the California Seafloor Mapping Program (CSMP). Our requests during fiscal year 2009 are as follows: $1,000,000 Office of Coast Survey; $300,000 NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Service Center and $3,500,000 NOAA Coastal Services Center. The Conservancy is also seeking a $1 million appropriation for the NASA Ames Research Center located in the Silicon Valley section of California in support of our efforts with the South San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds Restoration. In totaling our requests the Conservancy is asking for $5.8 million in funding during fiscal year 2009 from accounts under the subcommittees jurisdiction.

Conservancy Background

The California State Coastal Conservancy, established in 1976, is a state agency that uses entrepreneurial techniques to purchase, protect, restore, and enhance coastal resources, and to provide access to the shore.

To date, the Conservancy has undertaken more than 950 projects along the 1,100 mile California coastline and around San Francisco Bay. Through such projects, the Conservancy: protects and improves coastal wetlands, streams, and watersheds; works with local communities to revitalize urban waterfronts; assists local communities in solving complex land-use problems and protects agricultural lands and supports coastal agriculture to list a few of our activities.

Since its establishment in 1976, the Coastal Conservancy has: helped build more than 300 access ways and trails, assisted in the completion of over 100 urban waterfront projects, joined in partnership endeavors with more than 100 local land trusts and other nonprofit groups and completed projects in every coastal county and all nine San Francisco Bay Area counties.

California Seafloor Mapping Program

The California State Coastal Conservancy, in conjunction with numerous state and federal partners, is ambitiously pursuing the mapping of the entirety of the seafloor directly off the coast of the state of California. This project will produce detailed bathymetric maps of some of the most productive ocean waters in the United States and the world and as such is critical for a multitude of reasons.

A large number of ocean management decisions can be made more effectively with accurate statewide mapping of seafloor substrate, marine habitat types, and bathymetry (underwater topography) of California's coastal and nearshore waters. This information will inform the designation of new marine reserve areas as well as the monitoring of all reserve areas along the California Coast. High resolution sea floor maps will distinguish underwater habitats and highlight faults, chasms, fissures, crevices and pinnacles and will help identify and understand known and unknown fault dynamics along the seismically active California Coast. This information will then be utilized by scientists and resource managers to identify potential biological hot spots to aid their understanding of the highly productive and diverse ecosystem

along the California Coast. Further, information concerning the size and extent of activity associated with known and unknown underwater fault lines will allow our communities to better prepare for the possibility of cataclysmic seismic activity of the California Coast.

In addition, the project will provide extensive navigational benefits as it will identify hidden reefs, sunken obstacles and other navigation hazards in California's near and offshore waters. This information is essential for the safety of maritime commerce vessels, and subsequently the economies of California and the nation. These maps will provide greater knowledge and understanding of navigational channels and hazards surrounding the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland, the nations 1st, 2nd and 4th busiest port facilities respectively, which collectively are responsible for 50% of the nation's total container cargo volume.

Examples of some additional applications that would benefit from marine mapping and data include: understanding sediment transport and sand delivery, identifying dredging and dumping sites, regulation of offshore coastal development, and illuminating the dynamics of fisheries and other marine species. Detailed bathymetric maps are also critical in the development of an ocean circulation model that will allow us to better predict ocean response to natural and human-induced changes.

We are committed to the success and completion of the project and have secured $12.5 million from the State of California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for the advancement of the project to date. The OPC also intends to appropriate an additional $7.5 million in fiscal year 2009 if funds become available. We are also working with the Packard Foundation to determine the potential of financial support.

In support of the project the California Coastal Conservancy is seeking $1,000,000 from the Office of Coast Survey (OCS) in the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. OCS has been surveying the coastal waters of the U.S. and producing navigational charts for our nation's ports and waterways for nearly two centuries. Federal funds would be used to augment state funds to collect remaining data in California's state waters. OCS committed $2,000,000 to the program in FY '08.

In addition, we are seeking $300,000 in funding from the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center. Habitat differences of biological and geological significance cannot always be discerned from remotely sensed data. Some physical (grab samples) or visual (video) sampling is required to meet International Hydrographic Organization standards. Working in cooperation with the USGS and the CA Department of Fish and Game, federal funds and staff time for NMFS are needed to assure biological accuracy of the mapping effort. An additional $ 1.5 million will be requested from the U.S. Geological Survey Coastal and Marine Geology Program for scientific data collection (hydrographic surveys of the seafloor, video ground-truthing of remotely collected data to verify habitats and geologic structure, and seismic profiling to determine geologic stability) and for final map production. Although most of the hydrographic survey data will be collected by private industry, the Coastal and Marine Geology Program of the USGS is uniquely qualified to ground truth the accuracy of the data, and in coordination with the CA Geological Survey, create finished map products.

We are also seeking $3,500,000 in funding for the establishment of a NOAA West Coast Coastal Services Center. This is essential as the CSMP will produce vast amounts of data and maps. An established Coastal Service Center in this region will allow NOAA to work with the state to ensure managers have access to essential data and to develop decision-making tools for resource managers. These tools will help local and state managers make connections between coastal land use and marine resources and better understand climate change and sea level rise impacts on our coastal and ocean resources. The establishment of the West Coast Services Center will also enhance the federal support for the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health such as the development of social economic baselines for coastal communities and West Coast-wide mapping products, tools, and technical training through the Digital Coast effort.

Finally, the subcommittee should know that the CSMP enjoys broad support from a multitude of local, state, and federal agencies. These entities include: NOAA, USGS, Mineral Management Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CA Department of Fish and Game, CA State Lands, CA Coastal Commission, and CA State Water Resources Control Board. The CSMP is also supported by the federal Integrated Ocean Observing Program and the two regional associations within California, the Central and Northern Coastal Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) and the Southern CA Coastal Ocean Observing Program (SCCOOS). Seafloor mapping is included as a major priority in the OPC's strategic plan and in the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health. Furthermore, the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping, established by the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology, is currently drafting a National Ocean and Coastal Mapping Strategic Action Plan that will highlight the state-federal partnerships developed for CSMP as a model for the country.

South San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds Restoration- NASA Ames Research Center

The California State Coastal Conservancy in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is pursuing the restoration of over 15,100 acres of salt ponds formerly owned by the Cargill corporation. The project, known as the South San Francisco Salt Ponds Restoration Project, is the largest wetlands restoration initiative on the west coast of the United States and the 2nd largest restoration project in the nation, trailing only the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program in size and scope.

The project will provide dramatic benefits to the region, state and nation by transforming 15,100 acres of salt ponds formerly owned by the Cargill Corporation into a vibrant wetlands area that will provide extensive habitat for federally endangered birds, fish and wildlife. In addition, the project will improve wildlife oriented recreational opportunities including fishing, hunting, environmental education and bird-watching.

In addition, the project will provide increased public access to areas of the South San Francisco Bay that were previously unreachable through the creation of new bay trails and other associated undertakings. The construction of one particular segment of bay trail runs adjacent to the NASA Ames Research facility. The facility, currently well removed from public access, will need upgraded security features to safeguard its personnel and contents in advance of increased public access to the area. As such, we are seeking a $1 million in increased. Of this amount $661,800 will be for 13,236

linear feet of fencing, $50,000 for 10 double swing gates valued at $5,000 per gate and $60,000 is required for the installation of closed circuit monitoring technologies.

This request is supported by the center and all our project partners. Specifically, the South San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds Project is supported by a great number of respected organizations including: the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, the City of San Jose, The Bay Institute, Save the Bay, the Bay Trail Program, the National Audubon Society, and many other local governments, environmental groups, community groups, businesses, and recreation organizations.

AGI Fiscal Year 2009 Testimony to the House Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

Testimony Submitted by
Linda Rowan, Director of Government Affairs
American Geological Institute
in support of Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations for the
National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science and Related Agencies Appropriations
March 28, 2008

To the Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

The American Geological Institute (AGI) supports fundamental Earth science research sustained by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Frontier research on Earth, energy and the environment has fueled economic growth, mitigated losses and sustained our quality of life. The Subcommittee's leadership in expanding the federal investment in basic research is even more critical as our nation competes with rapidly developing countries, such as China and India, for energy, mineral, air and water resources. Our nation needs skilled geoscientists to help explore, assess and develop Earth's resources in a strategic, sustainable and environmentally-sound manner and to help understand, evaluate and reduce our risks to hazards. AGI supports a total budget of $7.32 billion for NSF (as authorized in the America COMPETES Act of 2007 – Public Law 110-69); $542 million for Scientific and Technical Research and Services at NIST (as authorized in America COMPETES Act); $4.5 billion for NOAA (an increase of $400 million over the request to maintain core programs and infrastructure), and $4.869 billion for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA (an increase of about $428 million over the request to maintain core research and missions).

The President's American Competitiveness Initiative and the America COMPETES Act of 2007 supports a doubling of physical science research at NSF and NIST, while noting the importance of robust research and science education programs at NASA and NOAA. AGI strongly supports both initiatives and the inclusion of Earth science in such efforts.

AGI is a nonprofit federation of 44 geoscientific and professional societies representing more than 100,000 geologists, geophysicists, and other Earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice for shared interests in our profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources and interaction with the environment.

NSF: We applaud the President's request for a 13 percent increase for an overall budget of $6.854 billion for NSF and the Administration's commitment to the American Competitiveness Initiative. We hope that the Subcommittee can strengthen our research and science education initiatives by funding NSF at an overall budget of $7.32 billion which is consistent with the amount authorized in the America COMPETES Act of 2007. NSF remains under funded and would benefit from an increase of about $466 million over the request in FY 2009. The additional funding would be distributed throughout NSF, but primarily to cover major facilities construction and planning, major facilities operation and maintenance and rising costs for facilities, instrumentation and labor. AGI believes that such a forward-looking investment in tight fiscal times will pay important dividends in future development and innovation that drives economic growth, especially in critical areas of sustainable and economic natural resources and reduced risks from natural hazards.

NSF Geosciences Directorate The Geosciences Directorate is the principal source of federal support for academic Earth scientists and their students who are seeking to understand the processes that ultimately sustain and transform life on this planet. The President's budget proposal requests an increase of about 13 percent (about $96 million) for a total budget of about $849 million, which AGI strongly supports.

The President's request for FY 2009 asks for $260.58 million for Atmospheric Sciences, $177.73 million for Earth Sciences, $353.5 million for Ocean Sciences and $56.82 million for Innovative and Collaborative Education and Research (ICER) within the Geosciences Directorate. Much of the geosciences research budget is for understanding that is critical for current national needs, such as climate change, water and mineral resources, energy resources, environmental issues and mitigation of natural hazards. AGI asks the Subcommittee to strongly support these essential investments and requests that these investments be used for research.

A significant concern for NSF and GEO is the rising costs of materials, infrastructure, and operations and maintenance. Costs for drilling, ships, instrumentation and raw materials are sky-rocketing as the supply and demand for these has increased in the public and private sector. Unexpected shortages, increasing competition and growing demand is significantly increasing the cost of basic research in GEO. This is one reason for NSF's decision to defer the Alaska Region Research Vessel (ARRV) and the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) which would receive no funding from the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account, but would instead receive about $7.5 million from the GEO Research and Related Activities account for planning.

Infrastructure and operation and maintenance costs for facilities are coming directly from the research budget within GEO. Among the major facilities, the Academic Research Fleet would receive $87.96 million, EarthScope Operation would receive $26.29 million, Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS) would receive $12.2 million, Ocean Drilling Activities would receive $47.4 million, Ocean Observatories would receive $10.5 million and the National Center for Atmospheric Research would receive $95.42 million. These facilities are essential for not only basic research but also for

addressing critical issues facing the nation, such as climate change, energy and mineral resources, water resources and hazards mitigation. Funding for these facilities, many of which have been operating for decades, must remain robust and require an infusion of funds approaching $300 million. Therefore AGI strongly supports the congressionally mandated budget of $7.32 billion for NSF in FY 2009 and asks that a significant fraction of the $466 million increase relative to the President's request be used to support facilities, whose operating funds are coming from the research budget of GEO.

We would encourage the general increase for GEO to focus on funding research, which means providing essential support to the faculty, staff, post-doctoral researchers, graduate students and undergraduate students at universities and other educational/research institutions across the nation. The outstanding facilities being maintained by GEO require investments in outstanding human capital through competitive research grants. Now is the time to boost Earth science research and education to fill the draining pipeline of skilled geoscientists and geo-engineers working in the energy industry; the construction industry, particularly on levees and dams; the environmental industry; the academic community, particularly on understanding natural hazards and the sustainability of our natural resources; the primary federal Earth science agencies, such as the United States Geological Survey; and in all areas of education.

NSF Support for Earth Science Education Congress can improve the nation's scientific literacy by supporting the full integration of Earth science information into mainstream science education at the K-12 and college levels. AGI supports the Math and Science Partnership (MSP) program, a competitive peer-reviewed grant program that funds only the highest quality proposals at NSF. The NSF's MSP program focuses on modeling, testing and identification of high-quality math and science activities whereas the Department of Education MSP program does not. The NSF and Department of Education MSP programs are complementary and are both necessary to continue to reach the common goal of providing world-class science and mathematics education to elementary and secondary school students. AGI opposes the transfer of the MSP from NSF to the Department of Education.

Improving geoscience education to levels of recognition similar to other scientific disciplines is important because:

- Geoscience offers students subject matter that has direct application to their lives and the world around them, including energy, minerals, water and environmental stewardship.

- Geoscience exposes students to a diverse range of interrelated scientific disciplines. It is an excellent vehicle for integrating the theories and methods of chemistry, physics, biology, and mathematics.

- Geoscience awareness is a key element in reducing the impact of natural hazards on citizens -- hazards that include earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. For example, lives were saved in the tragic Indian Ocean

tsunami by a 12 year old girl who understood the warning signs of an approaching tsunami and warned others to seek higher ground after completing an Earth science class.

- Geoscience provides the foundation for tomorrow's leaders in research, education, utilization and policy making for Earth's resources and our nation's strategic, economic, sustainable and environmentally-sound natural resources development.

NOAA: AGI appreciates the President's request for increased funding for NOAA for a total budget of $4.1 billion. Unfortunately, NOAA's funding has remained flat, at $3.9 billion since FY 2005 and based on an annual inflation rate of 3 percent a budget of $4.4 billion in FY 2009 would leave the agency's budget level in constant dollars. NOAA cannot support its core mission services including weather and severe storm forecasting, spill response, ocean observing, habitat restoration and conservation, and research on climate change, fisheries, and coastal and marine ecosystems without a more robust budget. We ask that the Subcommittee provide small increases (about 10 percent increases to their total budgets) rather than proposed cuts to the National Ocean Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Office of Atmospheric Research following the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. AGI also supports the additional increased funding for the National Weather Service for analysis, modeling and upgrading of observing systems and additional increases for the National Environment Satellite, Data and Information Service for the development of the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-R) and the National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS). Both satellite systems will maintain a global view of the planet to continuously watch for atmospheric triggers of severe weather conditions such as tornadoes, flash floods, hailstorms, and hurricanes.

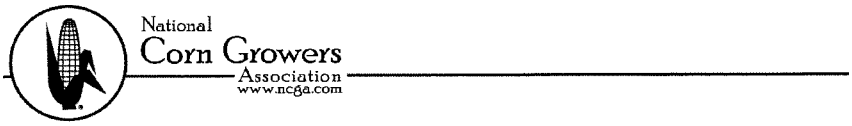
NIST: We applaud the President's request for a 22 percent increase in research and related funding for NIST in fiscal 2009. Basic research at NIST is conducted by Earth scientists and geotechnical engineers and used by Earth scientists, geotechnical engineers and many others on a daily basis. The research conducted and the information gained is essential for understanding climate change and natural hazards in order to build resilient communities and stimulate economic growth with reduced impact from risk. In particular, we strongly support increases for Measurements and Standards for the Climate Change Science Program ($5 million), Disaster Resilient Structures and Communities ($4 million) and the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) ($3.3 million). The climate change research will improve the accuracy of climate change measurements, may reduce satellite costs and may help to guide climate change policy. The hazards research will help to reduce the estimated average of $52 billion in annual losses caused by floods, fires and earthquakes. NIST is the lead agency for NEHRP, but has received only a small portion of authorized and essential funding in the past. AGI strongly supports a doubling of the NIST budget over 5 to 7 years as authorized in the America COMPETES Act of 2007, so that core research functions at NIST are maintained, while needed funding for climate change and hazards are protected.

NASA: AGI supports the vital Earth observing programs within NASA. Currently the topography of Mars has been measured at a more comprehensive and higher resolution than Earth's surface. While AGI is excited about space exploration and the President's Vision for Exploration, we firmly believe that NASA's Earth observing program is effective and essential to solving global to regional puzzles about Earth systems, such as how much and at what rate is the climate changing. AGI strongly supports the requested increase for Earth Science and Planetary Science programs within the Science Mission Directorate.

The Science Mission Directorate, which includes Earth Science, Planetary Science, Astrophysics and Heliophysics, would receive $4.441 billion in the FY 2009 proposal, a decline of 6 percent or $265 million compared to FY 2008 enacted levels. The President's FY 2009 budget request would provide $1.3675 billion for NASA's Earth Science program, a 6.8 percent increase over the FY 2008 appropriation to continue with current missions and begin development of new missions. AGI is very grateful to see an increase for Earth science. Unfortunately, about $570 million of the increase created for the decadal survey missions is funded through the transfer of funding from other science divisions, resulting in reductions in the Mars Exploration Program, a delay to the Solar Probe mission and other programmatic cuts. Future budget planning would provide an increase of $910 million over five years to initiate only the first two Earth science missions and start planning on three additional missions recommended in the National Academies Earth science decadal survey. In addition this funding outlook does not come close to meeting the $500 million annual increase recommended by the National Academies decadal survey report to bring the program back to its fiscal year 2000 funding level and enable the decadal recommendations.

AGI asks for a budget of $4.869 billion for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA or an increase of about $428 million over the President's request. The increase would eliminate the $265 million deficit compared to FY 2008 enacted budget for the Science Mission Directorate in the President's proposal and would include an additional $163 million for the Earth Science program (for a total of $1.530 billion in FY 2009). This would bring the Earth Science program up to an increase of $250 million about half of what is needed to meet the priorities of the decadal survey, but enough to keep key missions on track under tight fiscal constraints. We strongly urge the Subcommittee to return spending levels for Earth science within NASA to FY2000 levels (eliminating a 30 percent cut over the past 6 years) and implement the priorities of the National Academies *Earth Science and Applications from Space* Decadal Survey.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to the Subcommittee and would be pleased to answer any questions or to provide additional information for the record. I can be reached at 703 379 2480 ext. 228 (voice), 703 379 7563 (fax), rowan@agiweb.org, or 4220 King Street, Alexandria VA 22302-1502.



Written Testimony of
Pam Johnson
Chair, Research and Business Development Action Team
National Corn Growers Association
April 2, 2008

Before the
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee

Regarding
Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Priorities

Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations priorities. I am Pam Johnson, from Floyd, IA, and I operate a grain and livestock farm in partnership with my husband and two sons. I am also the Chair of the Research and Business Development Action Team for the National Corn Growers Association.

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) is a national organization founded in 1957 and represents more than 32,000 members in 48 states, 47 affiliated state organizations and more than 300,000 corn farmers who contribute to state check-off programs for the purpose of creating new opportunities and markets for corn growers.

NCGA's top priority in the FY2009 Science, State, Justice and Commerce appropriations bill is maintaining funding and focus of the $101.22 million for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Plant Genome Research Initiative (initiative). The initiative is supported by the Interagency Working Group on Plant Genomes under the auspices of the National Science and Technology Council within the Office of Science and Technology Policy. In 1997, NCGA spearheaded the effort on legislation that authorized major plant genome research, which resulted in the Plant Genome Research Initiative. Obtaining genome sequence information frequently leads to breakthroughs in the study of a particular organism. The goal of the initiative is to understand the structure and function of plant genes at all levels in species of economic importance and indeed, the initiative has led to an unprecedented increase in our understanding of the genomics and genetics of plants. The initiative also changed the way research is conducted in plant

biology and helped to attract a new generation of scientists to the plant sciences field at U.S. colleges and universities.

Bringing agriculturally important plant species into the genomic age is an important goal. Initial major accomplishments included the completion of the model laboratory plant Arabidopsis and rice genome sequences. Completion on those genomes demonstrated that genomic sequence was the most comprehensive way toward gene discovery - a first step toward identifying the role of each gene. Building upon lessons learned sequencing smaller plant genomes, sequencing the corn genome became feasible. Arabidopsis, a member of the *brassicaceae,* or mustard, family, has a genome of 125 million base pairs. Rice's genome has 430 million base pairs. Sequencing the corn genome had been considered difficult because of its large size and complex genetic arrangement. The genome has 50,000 genes scattered among the haploid genome size of 2.3 billion nucleotides- molecules that form DNA - that make up its 10 chromosomes.

In 2004, valuable corn research was made available through NCGA to research scientists working to understand the maize genome through the availability of sequencing data from Ceres, DuPont and Monsanto. This information, combined with the corn sequence data already in the public domain, significantly accelerated the identification of genes within the entire corn genome and was a precursor to the effect that the full corn sequence will have on the research community.

In 2005, NSF, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) awarded $29.5 million to sequence the corn genome. NSF selected a consortium of four research institutions to sequence the maize genome: The University of Arizona, Washington University in St. Louis, Iowa State University in Ames and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Cold Spring Harbor, New York. The goal of the Maize Genome Sequencing Project is to unravel the DNA sequence of the maize plant and to identify the genes and begin to determine their position on the chromosomes - the tiny bundles of DNA that form the storage units of genetic information. The sequencing of corn pushed the state of the art of genetic research to new levels as its genome has complexities beyond any plant sequenced to date. The highly repetitive regions of DNA, formerly considered "junk" DNA, are extremely prevalent in corn, and have been shown to have a significant impact on how the genetic engine of life truly works. These issues have posed significant challenges to researchers interested in crop improvement, plant molecular biology, or genome evolution. Using a physical map that covers about 95 per cent of the maize genome map, scientists generate a draft sequence to reveal the locations of regulatory elements within stretches of so-called non-coding "junk" DNA. Focus of the project does center on gene-containing regions and are sequenced in detail. This sequencing strategy enables the consortium to sequence the corn genome at a fraction of the cost that was necessary to decipher the human genome, which is only slightly larger than the corn genome.

Today, genomic research technology and techniques are ready to complete a high quality corn genome sequence. The result will be the complete sequence and structural understanding of the entire corn genome, annotated functional sequences, and their locations on corn's genetic and physical map. This genome will be the most complex eukaryotic genome to be sequenced to date, including the human genome. The corn genome sequence will, in turn, help in the eventual completion of other major crop genome sequences, as itself benefited from knowledge gained

through the prior completion of other genome sequences. Corn will also serve as a model system to aid in elucidating clues to improve the growth and development of other related grass crops, such as wheat, sorghum, millet and barley. Importantly, access to all of this information is shared through GenBank, Gramine, MazeGDB and other public repositories for genome-sequence data.

With focused funding, we will be much closer to achieving the goal of this initiative – understanding the structure and function of all economically significant plant genes. The corn industry, including the academic research community, grain handlers, growers, and seed companies, supported the corn genome sequencing project and will continue to support a program that maintains its focus on discovering the functionality of genes in economically important plant species. A complete corn genome sequence and the application of its information will provide a wide range of benefits. Both the public and private sectors will be able to expedite their breeding programs and increase their knowledge of corn's important agronomic traits. Corn growers will be able to plant varieties of corn that are better suited to market and environmental needs, such as pest resistant traits, lower nitrogen needs, and higher yields – all increasing sustainability. Quality researchers will continue to be attracted to the field of plant genomics and genetics.

Consumers will also benefit from more abundant and sustainable food, feed and fuel supplies. Corn is not only grown for food and feed, it is converted to a myriad of processed food products - literally thousands of products in the typical supermarket contain corn. Improvements aim at increasing yield and nutritional value and optimizing the properties crucial for grain products such as flour and pasta. The production of corn-based products with enhanced nutritional value that are safer and less allergenic will directly benefit consumers.

Corn is also an important material for many industrial purposes and products including rubber, plastics, fuel and clothing. Corn is a model system for studying complex genomic structure, organization and function and its high quality genetic map will serve as the foundation for studies that may lead to improved biomass and bioenergy resources from corn and related plant species.

The request for the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) is $675.06 million, and increase of $63.04 million, or 10%, over the FY2008 request of $612.02 million. The Directorate for Biological Sciences supports research, infrastructure, and education in the biological sciences at U.S. colleges, universities, non-profit research institutions, and other research and education organizations.

BIO includes a sub-activity request for Plant Genome Research (PGR) of $101.22 million, an amount that does not contemplate an increase from the FY2008 request. PGR sub-activity was initiated in FY1998 as a stand alone budget managed by Biological Infrastructure (DBI). In general, 36 percent of the PGR portfolio is available for new research grants. The remaining 64 percent is used primarily to fund continuing grants made in previous years. PGR supports research in agronomic significant species. However, the FY2009 budget proposes to roll PGR into the Integrated Organismal Systems (IOS) sub-activity, potentially causing the program to lose focus. Rolling the PGR budget into IOS will result in a significant reduction in funds

available for new genetic projects in economically important species as the needs of non-agricultural plants would be served from the same budget. The FY2009 budget also proposes to roll Arabidopsis 2010 into the IOS sub-activity. It is important to note that model systems research such as this project, has been traditionally supported through NSF's core budget and not PGR or IOS. This change may result in a reduction of resources available for economically significant plants, such as continued work on new projects involving the rice genome and future new project stemming from corn genome work, during flat budget cycles. The Arabidopsis 2010 project and the NSF's independent Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP) complement each other and provide a broad base of support for the plant biology research community. Arabidopsis 2010 has traditionally received up to $25 million per year. It is critical that both activities remain separate and receive enough support to achieve their goals.

Maintaining and improving upon the resources available for crop systems is now more important than ever, as agriculture tries to meet the demands of consumers worldwide by providing a safe and secure supply of resources for human and animal nutrition, fiber, bioenergy, and industrial feeds. Continued strong governmental support of basic agricultural research is essential to ensure that the innovation pipeline remains robust. NCGA requests that this subcommittee include in the FY2009 Science, State, Justice and Commerce appropriations bill language that secures the $101.22 million PGR budget to be applied exclusively to species of economic importance, keeping in line with the original intent of the program. Thank you again Mr. Chairman for allowing NCGA to testify today. I would be happy to entertain any questions you may have for me.

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Biography
April 2008

Pam Johnson is a farmer from Iowa, where she operates a grain and livestock farm in partnership with her husband and two sons. She is elected by her peers to represent corn growers at the state and national level. Johnson is an executive director of the Iowa Corn Promotion Board serving as immediate past chair. She is a delegate to the National Corn Growers Association and currently serves as chair of the Research and Business Development Action Team. Pam works with other corn grower leaders to formulate farm policy and advocate for research dollars to ensure a bright future for the next generation of farmers. She is also a member of the Trade Policy Advisory Team at the U.S. Grains Council.

Before farming full-time, Pam worked as a registered nurse. She graduated from Northwestern Hospital School of Nursing in Minneapolis. She has served as a volunteer in many commodity groups through the years and has become a strong advocate for agriculture and rural economic development issues on a local, state and national level. Iowa's farm community recently recognized Pam as the recipient of the 2006 Woman in Ag Award.

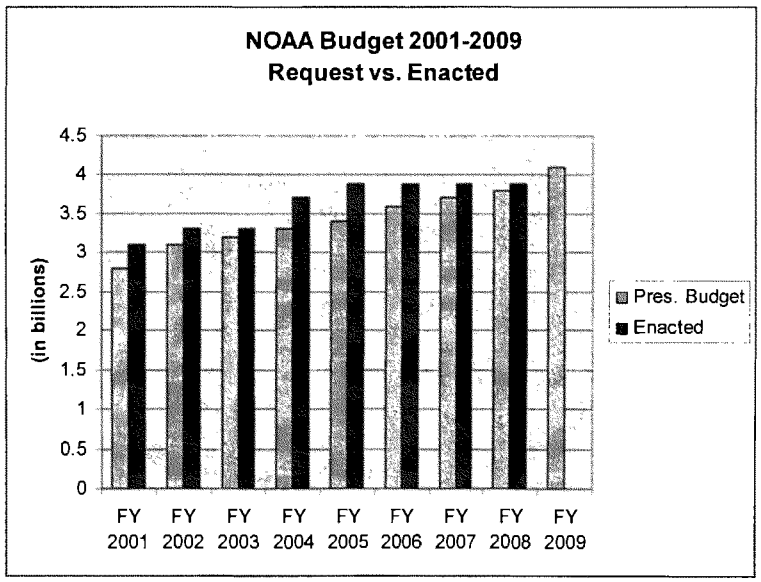
Written Testimony of Beth Lowell, Federal Policy Director of Oceana
For the Record of the
House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Of the Committee on Appropriations
Regarding the FY 2009 Budget
For the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

March 27, 2008

Dear Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and other Subcommittee Members:

On behalf of the more than 250,000 supporters of Oceana, an international, non-profit conservation organization devoted to protecting ocean waters and wildlife, I submit the following testimony on the Fiscal Year 2009 budget for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the Department of Commerce. I request that this testimony be submitted for the official record.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) mission is "to understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs." More specifically, NOAA manages our fisheries, researches climate change, and predicts our weather, among other critical duties. Funding for this agency has been well below the needed level to fully address all of its responsibilities.

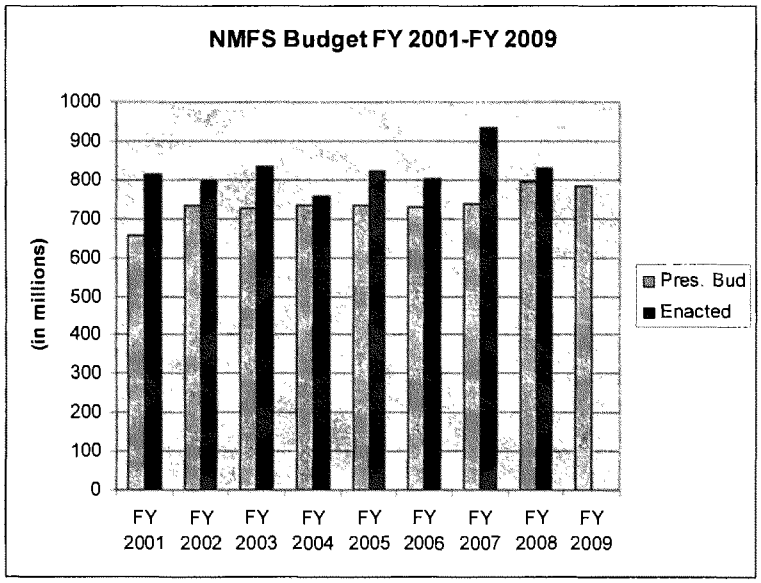


In the FY 2009 budget, the Administration requests $4.11 billion for NOAA. Oceana is pleased that the Administration request is above the FY 2008 enacted amount of $3.91 billion. The majority of the increase is directed to the Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) account for needed improvements to the NOAA satellite program. While this increase is necessary to keep our satellites operating, more resources must also flow into the Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) account, which funds the programmatic work of the agency. The ORF account has remained stagnant since FY 2005, which when taking inflation into account, has resulted in less money for ocean conservation and management.

Oceana urges the Subcommittee to provide $4.5 billion for NOAA in the Fiscal Year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill. NOAA has a critical role in promoting sustainable coastal communities and a healthy economy. We recommend that any increase above the President's request be directed into the ORF account to provide resources for fishery management, coral reef protection, undersea research, ocean wildlife conservation, coastal management, and ocean education.

More specifically, we urge the subcommittee to fund the following critical ocean research and conservation programs at these recommended levels:

- $56 million for fishery observer programs
- $40.5 million for stock assessments
- $57.1 for enforcement activities
- $15 million for deep water coral conservation
- $26.4 million for sea turtle research and management
- $82 for marine mammal research and management
- $10 million for ocean acidification research



National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

The Administration's FY 2009 request for the National Marine Fisheries Service is less than the previous year's enacted level and is below the FY 2008 Administration's request. This decrease is disappointing, especially considering the President's signing into law the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (MSRA) in January 2007. This comprehensive law includes critical changes to our fishery management system and requires additional funding to implement these changes. The Administration's request includes approximately $32 million for new programs to implement the requirements under the MSRA, but more money is needed to provide data for responsible fishery management. Stock assessments and fishery observers are just a few examples of such programs. In addition, sufficient enforcement of fishery management laws is needed.

Fishery Observer Programs--$56 million.
Fishery observers are independent scientists who gather information about fishing practices by accompanying fisherman at sea. Observers collect data on the composition of what is caught and brought on board during fishing operations. This is in contrast to landings data which only records what is brought to port—failing to account for bycatch—often dead or injured fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, sea birds and other ocean wildlife that is discarded. According to the NMFS, observers are currently deployed in only 42 of the nation's 300 fisheries. Of the fisheries that have observers, coverage levels in many of these fisheries are well below the amount needed for precise and accurate estimates of bycatch and total catch of fish and other marine species.

Stock Assessments-$40.5 million
Oceana supports the President's request for $40.5 million for the fisheries stock assessment program. Almost two-thirds of the nation's fish populations lack basic information to determine whether or not those fish populations are depleted or "overfished." In fact, there are 65 "major" stocks or stock complexes classified as "unknown" with respect to their population status. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that the fisheries of the United States end overfishing, therefore accurate data is needed to provide regional fishery managers with the information needed to make management decisions.

Enforcement-$57.1 million
Successful fishery management relies upon fair enforcement of laws, regulations, and other requirements of fishery management plans. Without resources for enforcement personnel at sea and at ports, compliance with fisheries laws will be inconsistent. The enforcement program also provides resources for cooperative agreements with state enforcement authorities.

Deep Sea Coral Conservation--$15 million
The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provides the regional Fishery Management Councils with the authority to protect deep sea coral habitat. These long-lived, slow growing corals can be destroyed in a matter of minutes by certain types of destructive fishing gear. These coral areas often serve as nurseries for commercially important species. Recognizing the importance of corals, the President's budget includes $1.5 million for a deep sea coral research program to identify and map sensitive habitat areas. Oceana supports this recommended increase for research and also would like additional resources be used for additional fishery observers, enforcement of protected areas, and the minimization of gear impacts on deep sea coral habitat.

Sea Turtle Research and Conservation--$26.4 million
Oceana requests that the Subcommittee reject the Administration's funding cut to the marine turtle program and instead expand upon existing funding. For over 25 years, all sea turtles that swim in U.S. waters are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, yet populations of sea turtles continue to decline. Commercial fisheries alone are authorized to kill 10,000 and injure an additional 334,000 turtles each year. Beyond commercial fishing, the federal government has not analyzed the cumulative impact of all permitted activities on sea turtle populations. There is not enough research on the health of sea turtle populations to ensure that these authorized takes are not jeopardizing the existence of the species. Additional funding will enhance research, recovery and conservation activities for imperiled sea turtles species.

Marine Mammal Research and Conservation-$82 million
Oceana requests that funding for the marine mammal program be restored to the FY 2005 level of $82 million. These funds will help ensure that National Marine Fisheries Serve adopts measures to recover depleted and strategic marine mammal species, such as Northern right whales, bottlenose dolphins, and pilot whales. Activities that may be supported by these funds include marine mammal research, bycatch reduction strategies recovery plan implementation, and marine mammal mortality event response. The President's request of $41.23 million is only half of the enacted FY 2005 level.

Ocean Acidification--$10 million
In addition to climate change, humanity's emissions of carbon dioxide are altering the acidity of the world's oceans. As emissions increase, more carbon dioxide is absorbed by the oceans, thus altering the water chemistry. Researchers agree that ocean acidification will pose a significant threat to marine ecosystems over the next century, with significant potential impacts to fisheries and coral reefs. More research is needed to better understand the ecological implications of these predicted impacts to the entire marine ecosystem and the degree to which marine organisms and ecosystems will be able to adapt to increased acidity. Oceana recommends $10 million for an ocean acidification research program.

Climate Change
NOAA's role in climate change includes monitoring, researching, and predicting the impacts of climate change on humans and the environment. In the oceans alone, ocean acidification, sea level rise, and increased intensity of storms are just a few of the areas under NOAA's purview, not to mention, coastal infrastructure impacts, changes to inland weather patterns, and increased satellite needs to monitor global fluctuations. NOAA's research capabilities are becoming increasingly important in our changing world. New money is needed now to address climate change. This increased research should not come out of the existing NOAA budget and at the cost of current programs.

Overall, substantial increases are needed for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Increases to the PAC account can not come at a cost to the ORF funding. Both accounts need substantial increases in the FY 2009 budget and in years to come if NOAA intends to manage our fisheries, conserve endangered species, protect ocean and coastal habitat, monitor global warming and its impacts, predict our weather, and perform other critical services to our nation.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

*Oceana received no funding from a federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) in the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years.

Testimony of

Sharon P. Robinson
President and CEO
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Representing the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

This testimony addresses the need for the federal government to invest more substantially in the preparation of K-12 STEM teachers, particularly in the Noyce Scholarship and Math and Science Partnership programs at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy's National Laboratories Centers of Excellence in STEM.

Sharon P. Robinson, Ed.D., President and CEO, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Serving Learners

March 24, 2008

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

I want to extend my appreciation to you and your colleagues in Congress for your support of federal STEM education programs. Your commitment makes a significant difference for the education of our millions of PK-12 and post-secondary students.

As you and your colleagues begin the FY 2009 appropriations process, **the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) urges you to increase the federal government's investment in the preparation of STEM teachers, particularly in the Noyce Scholarship program, Math and Science Partnerships program at NSF, and the Department of Energy's National Laboratories Centers of Excellence in STEM**. While there are significant funds behind Title II of the No Child Left Behind Act in the Improving Teacher Quality State Grants, the vast majority of these funds, and other funds in Title II, go towards class size room reduction and the professional development of practicing teachers. Equally important, though, is the preparation of teachers and other school personnel. And, in this respect, the federal government's investment has declined over the years. As this nation is in the midst of teacher retention and shortage crises, particularly in the math and science fields, it is critical that the government responds with a plan that provides for systemic change.

There are several programs within the Department of Education and the National Science Foundation intended to strengthen and improve STEM teacher personnel preparation efforts. We are working with program authorizers in Congress and staff within the agencies to ensure that these programs work in concert with each other. However, one of the key factors that prevents these programs from becoming agents of systemic change is the consistent under-funding of these programs. The cost of preparing school personnel is significant. With the TEACH Grant program (authorized in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act) slated to begin soon, we anticipate that the scholarship money for prospective teachers will be a recruitment tool. However, the programs that prepare these candidates need to be strengthened and expanded so that they have the capacity to prepare more and higher quality teachers.

Sharon P. Robinson, Ed.D., President and CEO, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Below you will find AACTE recommendations for the FY 2009 appropriations.

1. **Fund the Math and Science Partnership program at the $60 million level** – This program, currently funded at $46 million dollars, has contributed significantly to increased student achievement in the Math and Science areas, as noted in a NSF evaluation. However, there is still much work to be done in this area and with an authorized funding level of $111 million, there is significant room to boost funds. By increasing the funding level to $60 this would allow for more K-12 school and STEM teacher preparation programs to participate in a program that has shown to be effective.

2. **Fund the Noyce Scholarship program at the $103 million level** - This program, currently funded at $15 million, is a key recruitment tool in the effort to place more STEM teachers in the K-12 classrooms. The America COMPETES Act authorized funding in FY 2009 at $103 million. The vast gap between the authorized level and the funded level must be narrowed if the program is to have a substantive impact on addressing the shortage of K-12 STEM teachers.

3. **Fund the National Laboratories Centers of Excellence in STEM at the $15 million level** – This is a new program that was authorized in the America COMPETES Act. This program would establish partnerships between high need secondary schools, Department of Energy National Laboratories, and teacher preparation programs at an institution of higher education to improve K-12 student learning in the STEM fields. Through providing professional development for practicing teachers, improving the preparation of K-12 STEM teachers, and reforming curriculum and instructional practices in the STEM fields, these partnerships will contribute significantly to producing students who are better prepared in the STEM fields. Funding at the $15 million level would allow for 3-5 partnerships to be established.

The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) is a national voluntary association of higher education institutions and other organizations and is dedicated to ensuring the highest quality preparation and continuing professional development for teachers and school leaders. Our overarching mission is to enhance PK-12 student learning. Collectively, the AACTE membership prepares more than two-thirds of the new teachers entering schools each year in the United States.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jane West at (202) 293-2450 or jwest@aacte.org. Thank you for your consideration of the perspective of AACTE and its membership of close to 800 private, state, and municipal colleges and universities--large and small--located in every state, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

Sincerely,

Sharon P. Robinson

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Position Statement on the FY 2009 Budget Request for the National Science Foundation (NSF) submitted by the ASME NSF Task Force to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations

March 28, 2008

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Task Force of ASME's Technical Communities is pleased to provide comments on the NSF Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 budget request, in support of this year's proposed funding level of $6.85 Billion for the NSF. Founded in 1880 as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME is a worldwide engineering society of over 127,000 members focused on technical, educational and research issues. It conducts one of the world's largest technical publishing operations, holds approximately 30 technical conferences and 200 professional development courses each year, and sets many industry and manufacturing standards.

NSF FY 2009 Budget Request Overview

With its commitment to broad-based, cross-cutting programs that advance the boundaries of science and engineering, the NSF is essential in guiding the nation's non-defense-related research and education. As recognized by the Administration and Congress, in order for the U.S. to remain competitive in the integrated global marketplace, the nation must "support and promote innovation research in the United States through high-risk, high-reward projects that meet fundamental scientific and technological challenges." To implement this vision, the America COMPETES Act, which was signed into law in August 2007, includes the NSF as one of three key federal science and engineering agencies targeted for budget doubling over 10 years. To this end, ASME strongly endorses the NSF's investments in the requisite acquisition of new knowledge and in the development of talent whereby transformative research is supported and a world-class science and engineering workforce is built, inciting innovation, encouraging economic growth, addressing critical national needs, and establishing our nation's role as a global leader.

The total FY 2009 NSF budget request is $6.85 Billion (B) representing an $882 Million (M) or 13.6% increase over the FY 2008 estimate of $6.03B. It is worth noting that the original FY 2008 request was $6.43B, which was reduced to $6.03 billion (representing only a 2% increase over FY 2007) in the final FY 2008 omnibus spending measure. Thus, after setbacks in FY 2007 and FY 2008, the present budget request places NSF back on the path of budget doubling set forth in the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) and the America COMPETES Act.

Research and Related Activities (RRA) comprises the dominant portion of the total NSF request at $5.6M, representing a 16.0% increase over the FY 2008 estimate of $4.8M. After flat funding in FY 2008, all of NSF's research directorates would receive considerable increases in FY 2009, recovering from post-2004 NSF budget cuts to reach all-time highs in inflation-adjusted dollars. Funding for the Engineering Directorate (**ENG**) would increase by 19.2% over the current year estimate to $759M, of which $127M is budgeted (through mandate) for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs that **ENG** administers for all of NSF.

ENG consists of the following disciplinary-area divisions: Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET), up 32.3% to $173M; Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI), up 26.3% to $202M; Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems (ECCS), up 13% to $94M; Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP), up 15.8% to $141M; Emerging Frontiers in Research

and Innovation (EFRI), up 16% to $29M; and Engineering Education and Centers (EEC), up 3.4% to $120M.

A portion of the **ENG** budget (allocated from the constituent divisions) will continue to support research and education efforts related to broad, Foundation-wide investments in a number of areas, including the Administration's interagency R&D priorities. Under **ENG**, three new priority areas are funded in FY 2009, i.e. Adaptive Systems Technology ($3.49M), Dynamics of Water Processes in the Environment ($0.53M), and Science and Engineering Beyond Moore's Law ($4.0M). The following continuing areas also receive increases: National Nanotechnology Initiative (up 2.2% to $140M), Cyberinfrastructure (up 7.1% to $60M), and Networking and Information Technology R&D (up 45.9% to $28M — $16.8M of which is Cyber-enabled Discovery and Innovation). Climate Change Science Program ($1.0M) funding remains level, and the Human and Social Dynamics initiative concluded in FY2008, with funds returning to core programs for continued support.

The ASME NSF Task Force Position

Affirmation and Endorsement

The ASME NSF Task Force maintains its high endorsement of NSF's crucial role in directing the fundamental research and education that keeps America at the leading edge of science, engineering, and technology. NSF has an outstanding record of supporting a broad range of high-quality research, from 'curiosity-driven' science to targeted initiatives. This achievement has been made possible only through strict adherence to the independent peer review process for merit-based awards. ASME recognizes the significance and relevance of NSF's **investment areas** that address major national needs for the 21st century. The increases proposed under the America COMPETES Act would allow NSF to properly sustain and expand these efforts and commitments, honing the nation's competitive edge.

The FY 2009 Budget Request represents a 13.6% increase over the FY 2008 estimate. Over three-quarters of the total $882M increase for NSF is in R&D funding, totaling $5.6B, a gain of $772 million or 16% over the FY 2008 estimate. After flat funding in FY 2008, this request would bring R&D investment to an all-time high in inflation-adjusted dollars, allowing the research directorates to recover from the budget cuts that occurred after 2004. In a competitive, multifaceted, and ever-changing global setting, adequate investment in basic science and engineering research, that involves both established and emerging areas, is essential in recognizing and nurturing innovation, in preparing the next generation of scientific talent and leaders, and in producing the products, processes, and services that improve health, living conditions, environmental quality, energy conservation, and national security for all Americans.

Overall, the Task Force also supports and commends activities within **ENG**. NSF's vision of "advancing discovery, innovation, and education beyond the frontiers of current knowledge" is exemplified within **ENG**. It is important to recognize that it is through such fundamental science and engineering research by which next generation technologies are frequently engendered. Examples of successes emerging from **ENG** include the fabrication of nanowires for optical applications, presenting the potential to miniaturize microphotonic devices and transform telecommunications. **ENG's** SBIR program has developed lightweight, flexible, low-cost, and more efficient solar cells—plastic reels coated with layers of dye-sensitized titania nanoparticles, enabling capture of larger portions of the visible spectrum and absorption of more energy. **ENG** has also funded pioneering work on embedding transistors into microcantilevers, where deflections resulting from the binding of target molecules in a specific environment, create measurable changes in drain current of the transistor. This technique allows for a unique sensor system that could potentially detect the presence of heart disease from a person's drop of blood or detect the presence of chemicals used for explosives.

NSF leads the U.S. nanotechnology research effort, and **ENG** is the focal point within NSF for this key national research endeavor. ASME has strongly supported the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI)

since its inception as an NSF **investment area** in FY 2000. Increased funding amounts are requested for research at the fundamental level, as well as in environmental, health, and safety aspects. Within the total NSF-wide investment for NNI, **ENG**'s contribution will increase by $3M to a total of $140M.

Finally, ASME continues to support NSF's vision to "empower future generations in science and engineering." In coordination with the Department of Education, NSF will continue funding for the Math and Science Partnership program (at $51M), aimed at improving K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and teaching. Funding for the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) awards, which support exceptionally promising college and university junior faculty who are most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century, will increase $14.2M to $181.9M. The FY 2009 Request provides $245.9M for NSF's three flagship graduate fellowship and traineeship programs: $124.8M for the Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) program, $63.8M for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Program, and $57.3M for the Graduate Teaching Fellowships in K-12 Education (GK-12) program. This funding will enable NSF to support an estimated 5,450 graduate students. NSF supports the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program (REU) at $61.6M, and the Research Experiences for Teachers program (RET) at $9.7M. NSF continues to broaden participation in science and engineering, with support totaling $674.4M. This includes efforts to reach all states and regions, e.g. the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), which increases to $113.5M, as well as efforts that focus on underrepresented groups.

Questions and Concerns

ASME's key questions and concerns arising from the FY 2009 budget request center on:

- the need to fund NSF at the appropriate level as specified in the America COMPETES Act;
- a more even funding distribution for **ENG** with respect to other Directorates within NSF;
- a balance between manufacturing and services R&D within **ENG;** and
- increased funding for non-priority-area core disciplinary research within **ENG**.

NSF is the only federal agency mandated "to strengthen the health and vitality of U.S. science and engineering and support fundamental research and education in all scientific and engineering disciplines." While comprising only 4% of the total federal budget for R&D, NSF provides 45% of the federal support given to academic institutions for non-medical basic research. Moreover, while NSF does not directly support medical research, its investments do provide the technologies in diagnosis, medicine, manufacturing pharmaceuticals, and drug delivery that are essential for the medical sciences and related industries. Given recent budget cuts at the appropriations stage, the ASME NSF Task Force believes that NSF is severely under funded, with the immediate and future welfare of our nation at stake.

Recognizing the urgency in preserving the nation's past success in leading-edge discovery and innovation, Congress and the Administration enacted the America COMPETES Act in August of 2007, laying out a bold path toward revitalizing basic research in the physical sciences and engineering. Beginning with the release of the National Academies' report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, the America COMPETES Act was the culmination of a growing consensus among policy makers, engineers, and scientists that substantial national efforts related to R&D funding in the physical sciences and engineering are needed to preserve the nation's competitiveness. The America COMPETES Act was a bipartisan bill supporting the doubling of funding over ten years at three key federal science agencies (NSF, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology). However, despite an increase for NSF and the other two agencies, the proposed FY 2008 increase for NSF was far from met in the final appropriation. As a result, the ASME NSF task force urges Congress to recommit to the ideals of the America COMPETES Act, and to fund NSF at the level of the FY 2009 President's request, i.e. $6.85B, which is commensurate with the intended doubling plan.

ENG is the single largest source of federal funding for university-based, fundamental engineering research – providing 40% of the total federal support in this area. However, **ENG** (less SBIR/STTR) is still only fifth in total funding (at $632M) of the six Directorates within NSF, despite receiving the second largest percentage increase of the Directorates at 19.6% and matching CISE for the second largest total amount increase at $104M. At the same time, **ENG** supports 23% of the total NSF REUs, which give U.S. undergraduates research experience to encourage them to pursue doctoral studies. **ENG** also supports over 50% of the total NSF RETs, which give K-12 teachers and community college faculty research experience so that they can extend their experience into classrooms. It's important to note that **ENG** supports these two activities at the highest percentages among the Directorates within NSF. Our Nation's long-standing global prominence in technological innovation may be at risk, if such investments in basic engineering research and education are constrained by lack of federal funding in engineering.

Driving new innovation, knowledge-intensive industries comprising both services and manufacturing are critical in surviving in the worldwide economy. However, since 2002, the nation's decades-long comparative advantage in the trade balance of high-technology products has shifted from surplus to deficit. Of concern is the transformation of the U.S. from a sustainable "making products" economy to an unsustainable "selling products" economy. As found in a study by the World Technology Evaluation Center, Inc. (WTEC) on American Manufacturing, globalization of manufacturing and the low level of government investment in manufacturing R&D have stripped the U.S. of its position as the recognized leader in manufacturing innovation and the commercialization of new technologies. Given the need for local manufacturing for national security, wealth generation, and quality of life (e.g. health care products compromised by unknown sources), the portfolio balance of manufacturing versus services R&D within **ENG** should be examined.

Encouragingly, the 16% growth in RRA allows for the support of 1,370 additional research grants NSF-wide. For **ENG**, 454 additional grants are anticipated, along with a funding-rate increase from 16-20% and a $2K increase in average annualized award size, for unsolicited fundamental research proposals for individual investigators and small group activities. Although we are moving in the right direction, the total funding for non-priority-area core disciplinary research (from which new priority areas and even new disciplines are often conceived) within **ENG** should still be examined. Not counting the SBIR/STTR program, the funding for **investment priority-areas** constitutes over 40% of the budget request for **ENG**. The Task Force does not advocate for the redistribution of monies from **investment priority-areas** into non-priority core areas, but rather significant increases for completely flexible core funds in order to develop the creative and novel ideas that feed the comprehensive fundamental Science, Engineering, and Technology knowledge base, which serves as a foundation for this nation's greatness.

Closure

The ASME NSF Task Force urges Congress to support the Administration's request at a minimum of $6.85B for FY 2009, and enthusiastically commends the National Science Foundation's leadership in projecting the nation's basic research and development vision. We applaud Congress for its recent passage of the House budget resolution, which includes significant increases that would bring NSF into full compliance with the America COMPETES Act. A substantial increase in the NSF's budget, by increasing both the number and size of its awards, especially in core disciplinary research and education, will enable the NSF to better position itself to fulfill its leadership responsibility in directing the nation's research and development activities. As Congress considers the FY 2009 appropriations bills, we hope that the aforementioned resolution is effected, ensuring that the necessary basic R&D funding is secured for future U.S. competitiveness in science and technology.

This testimony represents the considered judgment of the NSF Task Force of ASME's Technical Communities and is not necessarily a position of ASME as a whole.

National Association of Marine Laboratories

Official Written Testimony for Fiscal Year 2009
Submitted to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Submitted by Dr. James Sanders
President, National Association of Marine Laboratories
March 28, 2008

On behalf of the National Association of Marine Laboratories I am pleased to submit this statement for the official record in strong support of the research and education programs under the subcommittee's jurisdiction that play a vital role in the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes research and education enterprise. I will focus my remarks on four key areas: federal support for extramural ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research; the next generation of ocean infrastructure; U.S. innovation and competitiveness through investment in the marine sciences; and ocean education, literacy, diversity and workforce development.

The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) is a nonprofit organization of about 100 institutions employing more than 10,000 scientists, engineers, and professionals and representing ocean, coastal and Great Lakes laboratories stretching from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico, Guam to Bermuda, and from Alaska to Puerto Rico. NAML labs support the conduct of high quality ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research and education in the natural and social sciences and the effective use of that science for decision-making on the important issues that face our country.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR EXTRAMURAL OCEAN, COASTAL AND GREAT LAKES RESEARCH

NAML strongly urges the Subcommittee to maintain and strengthen its support for cutting-edge ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes research and education across the federal funding agencies within its jurisdiction.

The marine sciences are inherently interdisciplinary, push the envelope in terms of technology development, test the boundaries of our data collection and analysis systems, and offer an effective training ground for future scientists and engineers. NAML believes that competitive, merit-based research support by all relevant federal agencies is essential to the overall progress of coastal, ocean and Great Lakes science and education. Specifically, NAML calls on the Subcommittee in the FY 2009 appropriations bill to support the research and education programs of the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration one of its highest priorities.

National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF provides vital support for basic research and education which enhances public understanding of the Nation's oceans, coastal areas, and the Great Lakes and strengthens the long-term economic competitiveness and national security of

our country. NSF support for cutting edge research, cyberinfrastructure, as well as more traditional instrumentation and infrastructure is essential for the health of the Nation's research enterprise. NSF also plays a large role in supporting education and training for the next generation of scientists and engineers and enhancing diversity by attracting and retaining women and minorities. Marine labs contribute significantly to this objective through the research and education programming conducted with NSF support. **NAML is supportive of proposals from the Administration ($6.9 billion request for FY 2009) and the Congress (via the America COMPETES Act) to substantially increase NSF support for FY 2009 and urges that in the provision of such resources, they be distributed in a balanced way to include all of the NSF directorates consistent with similar guidance provided in the FY 2008 appropriations conference report.**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA is a critical player in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research and education and many NAML labs are co-located with, or linked to, NOAA laboratories. Through its partnerships with marine labs and universities, NOAA has access to world-class expertise and unique research facilities. In addition, by partnering with the external research and education community, NOAA can leverage funds and facilitate multi-institution cooperation, all for the purpose of promoting the very best science. **NAML urges the Subcommittee to recognize the value of NOAA by funding the agency at a budget of $4.5 billion for FY 2009, as supported by the Friends of NOAA Coalition.** In addition, we call on the Subcommittee to emphasize NOAA's key extramural research and education programs which assist NOAA in addressing its mission. These programs include: the National Sea Grant College Program, the National Undersea Research Program, Ocean Exploration and Research, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, the Competitive Research Program within NOAA's Climate Program Office, the Integrated Ocean Observing System, Oceans and Human Health, Coastal Zone Management, Office of Education and the various joint and cooperative institutes. In addition, NOAA supports important research in aquaculture and invasive species.

In 2007, NOAA released a comprehensive five year research plan[1] that highlights the linkage between NOAA research and the Nation's economic competitiveness. A healthy NOAA budget coupled with solid partnerships with the extramural research and education communities will only strengthen NOAA's research and education capabilities and ultimately make our nation safer.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Budgets for NASA earth and space science have declined in recent years despite fervent calls from the community to protect science funding at the agency. The National Academy of Sciences released a report in 2007[2] calling on NASA to "renew its investment in Earth observing systems and restore its leadership in Earth science and applications." NAML is not alone in its contention that this nation is in need of a balanced investment in NASA that will maintain a strong and vibrant earth and space science

[1] Research in NOAA: Toward Understanding and Predicting Earth's Environment, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, June 2007

[2] Earth Science and Applications from Space: National Imperatives for the Next Decade and Beyond, Committee on Earth Science and Applications from Space: A Community Assessment and Strategy for the Future, National Research Council, January 2007

enterprise. NASA's support for earth observations and research is vital in helping us better understand our own planet. We are encouraged that the Administration has called for Earth and Space science increases in its FY 2009 budget request. **NAML urges the Subcommittee to renew its investment in the NASA Earth Science budget for Fiscal Year 2009.**

NEXT GENERATION OF OCEAN INFRASTRUCTURE

In addition to program support for research at the various federal funding agencies, support for infrastructure and instrumentation—including long term planning for the next generation of infrastructure—is critical to the operation of marine labs. NSF in particular provides important support for basic laboratory facilities, instrumentation, support systems, computing and related cyberinfrastructure, and ship access through the important Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) and the Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (FSML) programs. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's report[3] made several recommendations about the need for development and enhancement of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research infrastructure. NAML recognizes the need for infrastructure investment at all scales, from traditional infrastructure—such as marine laboratories, ships, observation systems, satellites—to next generation infrastructure and technology like genomics, proteomics, robotics, nanotechnology, and other advanced computational approaches. As federal research budgets grow, so too must support for critical infrastructure required to effectively implement research and education. We are hindering our brightest scientific minds by denying them the proper infrastructure needed to support their research. **NAML urges the Subcommittee to recognize the importance of sustained support for infrastructure across the federal research agencies and provide commensurate funding for FY 2009.**

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR U.S. INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH INVESTMENT IN THE MARINE SCIENCES

NAML notes that the Federal government has targeted the "physical sciences" for funding increases in recent years, despite the outcome of the FY 2008 appropriations process. The Congress, through enactment of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-069), recognized that the physical sciences did not only refer to science coming out of the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as defined by the Administration. In addition to these agencies the COMPETES Act acknowledged the role that many Federal agencies – such as NOAA and NASA – play in U.S. innovation and competitiveness. **For FY 2009, NAML urges the Subcommittee to fund all of the "physical science" agencies, including NSF, NOAA, and NASA, at levels that will help the nation keep pace on the global stage.**

OCEAN EDUCATION, LITERACY, DIVERSITY AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

NAML believes that an informed, engaged and ocean literate populace is critical for the economic, environmental health of our planet and to the quality of life of all Americans.

[3] An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, April 20, 2004

NAML encourages the federal government to strengthen its commitment to enhancing ocean, coastal and Great Lakes education, literacy, diversity and workforce development.

In early 2008 NAML developed a whitepaper[4] addressing the ocean education mission at NOAA and calling on NOAA to be a strong contributor to the implementation of the recommendations made within the 2006 Conference on Ocean Literacy (CoOL) report[5]. The Conference on Ocean Literacy was a watershed event that brought together for the first time all of the Federal entities overseeing ocean education and literacy. Its subsequent report issued key recommendations for fostering an ocean-literate society and increasing ocean workforce diversity. NAML looks forward to working with NOAA, as well as other federal agencies with ocean education missions, in implementing the report's recommendations.

A strong national ocean policy can only be sustained with the most up to date and reliable scientific information. To ensure that the Nation will continue to generate the very best knowledge investment is needed today in coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes education programs that support learning at all age levels, by all disciplines, and for all Americans. NAML labs work closely with many programs throughout the Federal government to produce a more ocean-literate populace. **These include the Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence program (COSEE) and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program at NSF, and the Office of Education and National Sea Grant College Program within NOAA**. Not only do marine labs serve as excellent training grounds for experiential ocean education, they are also committed to enhancing diversity within the field of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research and education by fostering relationships with community colleges and minority-serving institutions (MSIs) to provide distinctive learning opportunities for underrepresented groups. At marine laboratories, students achieve a greater understanding of the oceans and coastal ecosystems and take with them a sense of stewardship for these important environments. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the ocean sciences, a continued interagency approach will be needed by the Federal government to foster a truly ocean-literate populace. **NAML urges the Subcommittee to provide priority funding for the science education programs noted above for FY 2009.**

Thank you for the opportunity to express these views on behalf of the National Association of Marine Laboratories. We hope the Subcommittee will take these points into consideration as you move forward in the FY 2009 appropriations process.

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[4] Ocean Literate America: A Whitepaper in Support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Ocean Education Plan, National Association of Marine Laboratories, February 2008
[5] Conference on Ocean Literacy Report, Washington, D.C., June 7-8, 2006

Testimony on behalf of the

Population Association of America/ Association of Population Centers

Regarding the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations for the

Census Bureau

and

National Science Foundation

Submitted to the

House Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Alan Mollohan, Chair
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member

Submitted by
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Introduction
Thank you, Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Frelinghuysen and other distinguished members of the Subcommittee, for this opportunity to express support for the Census Bureau and the National Science Foundation (NSF), two agencies important to the Population Association of America and the Association of Population Centers (PAA/APC). **PAA and APC request that you support the administration's budget for the Census Bureau at $2.6 billion and for NSF at $6.8 billion.**

Background on the PAA/APC and Demographic Research
The PAA is an interdisciplinary, scientific organization comprised of over 3,000 research professionals, including demographers, economists, sociologists, and statisticians. The APC is a similar organization comprised of over 30 universities and research groups that foster collaborative demographic research and data sharing, translate basic population research for policy makers, and provide educational and training opportunities in population studies.

Demography is the study of populations and how and why they change. Demographers, as well as other population researchers, collect and analyze data on trends in births, deaths, immigration and disabilities as well as racial, ethnic and socioeconomic changes in populations. Among the major policy issues, population researchers study the demographic causes and consequences of population aging, trends in fertility, marriage, divorce and their effects on the health and well being of children, and immigration and migration and how these patterns affect the ethnic and cultural diversity of our population and the nation's health and environment.

PAA/APC members rely on a number of federal agencies charged with funding demographic research and generating reliable, accessible data. The ability of our members to produce meaningful research, often used to inform policy decisions, requires the use of substantial data sets and support for research projects and research training. Both the Census Bureau and National Science Foundation (NSF), which are under your subcommittee's jurisdiction, are key to the success of our field.

The Census Bureau
The Census Bureau is the most comprehensive source of demographic and economic data on every facet of our nation's population and communities. PAA and APC members rely on accessible data produced by the Census Bureau to conduct their research. **Thus, we support the Administration's request of $2.6 billion for the Census Bureau in FY 2009 and hope the Subcommittee will as well.** This funding is necessary to support the significant ramp-up activities in the final preparation year for the 2010 decennial census and to support the agency's ongoing survey operations, too.

We recognize the FY2009 request is double the FY 2008 appropriation of $1.3 billion. However, as you know, the Census Bureau's budget is cyclical and must increase

dramatically in the years immediately preceding the decennial census to pay for necessary preparations. In FY 2009, these activities include:

- Opening and staffing 150 "early" local census offices;
- Canvassing all neighborhoods and rural areas to verify addresses (on the Master Address File) and geographic locations (in the TIGER system);
- Finalizing data capture, data processing, and telecommunications systems;
- Printing hundreds of millions of census questionnaires and other forms; and,
- Conducting promotional activities, including the Regional Partnership Program, to assure the greatest possible level of participation in 2010.

The groundwork done in the final year before the census will, to a large extent, determine the success of the 2010 Census. The Census Bureau must receive, at a minimum, the President's requested funding level, to ensure vital preparations are thorough and timely.

Fiscal Year 2009 is also a pivotal year for the American Community Survey (ACS), which has replaced the traditional census long form. In 2010, the ACS will provide the first demographic, economic, and housing characteristics data for areas as small as census tracts and block groups, based on five years worth of data collection for households (2005 - 2009). To assure the data collected in the last year are as accurate as in previous years, the Census Bureau needs sufficient funding to continue sampling three million households that receive the ACS annually.

The Administration's request also will enable the agency to continue its other ongoing surveys, which measure changes in individual and household demographic and economic conditions. For example, in FY 2009, the Census Bureau will tabulate and publish data from the 2007 Economic Census, launch an initiative to improve the collection of economic statistics on the growing service sector, and continue the Survey of Income and Program Participation. Continuation of these activities is particularly important in the current difficult economic climate, as these data provide a basis for key economic indicators and help Congress assess the prudence of fiscal policy proposals.

National Science Foundation (NSF)
PAA and APC, as members of the Coalition for National Science Funding, support the President's Fiscal Year 2009 budget request for NSF of $6.8 billion. This budget will enable the NSF Social, Behavioral and Economic Science Directorate (SBE) to continue its support of social science surveys and a rich portfolio of population research projects.

The mission of NSF is to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense. The demography of our

population directly impacts the health, prosperity, welfare, and security of our nation. NSF's support of demographic research, particularly its support of large-scale longitudinal surveys, such as the General Social Survey and Panel Study of Income Dynamics, is central to the agency's mission and essential for the field of demographic research. NSF is the funding source for approximately 20 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities, including basic behavioral and social research. Demographic research also depends on support from NSF for support of individual research projects and research centers.

The Census Bureau and the National Science Foundation support, indirectly and directly, the collection and availability of rich data sources important to PAA/APC members. Our demographers, economists, sociologists, and statisticians rely on federally supported data to conduct sound research and inform public policy. Investments in these data sets are investments in good policy.

Thank you for considering our requests and for supporting federal programs that benefit the field of demographic research.

Peter Raabe
Policy Director for Budget and Appropriations
American Rivers

American Rivers, on behalf of our 65,000 supporters nationwide urges the Committee to provide at total of $4.5 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and of that $275.2 million for the following National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2009. I request that this testimony be included in the official record.

1) Open Rivers Initiative
Our nation's rivers are plugged with millions of dams- the National Research Council estimates that there are more than 2.5 million dams in the United States- most still functional and benefiting society. However, many others have long outlived their useful purpose, are greatly deteriorated, and pose public safety hazards. Most dams in the US were designed to last 50 years, and by 2020 more than 85% will have surpassed their design life. These dams are generally less than 20 feet in height, incapable of producing electricity, and provide no flood control. Many such dams are forgotten by most except for their owners who are burdened with long-term maintenance and liability costs. In order to properly maintain these dams hundreds of millions of dollars must be invested each year. The state of dams in this country has led the American Society of Civil Engineers to broadly rate the safety of our nation's dams at a "D". These small dams degrade the river ecosystem, negatively affect economic development opportunities, and pose hazards to property owners and communities that are located downstream.

The Open Rivers Initiative is designed to help willing public and private dam owners finance the removal of their obsolete dams for the restoration of riverine habitat. These restoration projects provide significant environmental improvements and offer noteworthy economic and societal benefits. They create new opportunities for fishing, paddling, and wildlife-watching; save money by eliminating the on-going costs of dam repairs and maintenance; eliminate public safety and liability risks associated with outdated structures; and, reduce localized flooding which is often exacerbated by obsolete dams.

American Rivers urges the Committee to provide $10 million to the Open Rivers Initiative in Fiscal Year 2009.

2) The Penobscot River Restoration Project
The Penobscot River Restoration Project is an unprecedented approach to river restoration that will reconfigure hydropower facilities and maintain energy production while opening up about 1000 miles of habitat to 10 native species of anadromous fish, improve water quality, boost wildlife and create new opportunities in communities along New England's second largest river. The two lowermost Penobscot dams, Veazie and Great Works, will be removed and a state-of-the-art fish bypass will be installed at Howland Dam. This restoration project will reestablish the river's historic connection to the ocean, and help feed fisheries and wildlife in the river and the Gulf of Maine. The project's reconfiguration of dams will have a wide range of benefits to fish and wildlife populations, water quality and communities along the river. The restoration of the

Penobscot River is the best last chance for the dwindling Atlantic Salmon populations in the country.

American Rivers urges the Committee to provide $10 million to the Penobscot River Restoration Project in Fiscal Year 2009 for the removal of the three dams on the Penobscot River.

3) Fisheries Restoration Center (Community-base Restoration Program)
Estuaries and coastal wetlands serve many essential functions for communities across the nation. Coastal industries supply 28 million jobs and generate billions of dollars annually. Eighty to 90 percent of all recreational fish catch and 75 percent of all commercial harvest depends upon healthy coastal and estuarine habitats. More than half of the coastal wetlands in the lower 48 states have been lost, and almost 40 percent of estuarine habitat is impaired.

The Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program, funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Restoration Center, reaches out to local constituencies to accomplish on-the-ground, community-based projects to restore estuaries and coastal habitats through its Community-based Restoration Program. Partnerships and local involvement are fundamental to the success of this program. Partners typically match federal dollars three- or five-to-one and leverage those dollars up to ten times more through state and local participation. To date, the program has funded more than 900 projects in 25 states, promoting fishery habitat restoration in coastal areas with a grassroots, bottom-up approach. The success of the Restoration Center's work spawned the creation of the Open Rivers Initiative in FY 2007 this increase workload as well as the success of the central work of the program needs to continue to be supported.

American Rivers urges the Committee to provide the Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program with $40 million in Fiscal Year 2009 (including funding for the Penobscot River Restoration Project and the Open Rivers Initiative which fall under the Fisheries Restoration Center) to help more communities restore and protect and restore the health of their estuaries and coastal habitats.

4) Hydropower Relicensing
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) would greatly benefit from additional funding to address the growing number of hydropower dams that need renewal of their operating licenses from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Under the Federal Power Act, the NMFS has a responsibility to set license conditions for hydropower dams that protect and conserve anadromous (sea-run) fisheries such as Pacific and Atlantic salmon, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout, and shad. FERC approved licenses are nearing expiration at hundreds of dams around the country, and workloads are increasing for NMFS and other resource agencies. Increasing NMFS's limited hydropower relicensing budget is essential to ensure a more efficient licensing process and that NMFS can carry out its responsibilities to protect and restore our nation's anadromous fisheries.

Additionally, The Energy Policy Act of 2005 gave stakeholders in a hydropower licensing the ability to challenge the evidence supporting resource agencies' conditions. When challenged,

agencies must now expend additional funds on a series of costly administrative "trial-type" hearings. A single hearing can cost an agency between $100,000 and $300,000. Multiple hearing requests could quickly drain an agency's annual hydropower budget, making it impossible for them to actually do their jobs by discouraging them from prescribing any conditions on a project due to the agency costs associated with the hearings.

Federal natural resource agencies, including the National Marine Fisheries Service, play a crucial role in the licensing of hydropower dams, ensuring that fisheries, public lands, wildlife, recreation, and tribal interests are protected. These efforts are at risk from budget cuts, the reallocation of already limited funding to other agency programs, and significant new expenses associated with the 2005 Energy Policy Act. In order to protect these vital resources, these agencies badly need a dedicated source of funding that will allow them to participate in hydropower licensing proceedings.

American Rivers urges the Committee to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service with $15.2 million to specifically fund the agencies work on hydropower relicensing in Fiscal Year 2009.

5) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Wild Pacific salmon and steelhead trout are national treasures of enormous environmental, economic, and cultural significance. These important species are in decline due to a variety of factors such as dams, unsustainable logging and agricultural practices, urban sprawl, and poor hatchery practices. Twenty-six of the fifty-one salmon and steelhead stocks along the West Coast from Washington to California are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is aimed at restoring imperiled runs of fish. This program provides much-needed assistance to state, local, and tribal governments in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho and Alaska. These funds are matched dollar-for-dollar at the state and local level, and can be used for habitat restoration, preservation, and acquisition, as well as for monitoring the health of salmon populations and watersheds.

Citizens, watershed groups, Native American tribes, and federal and state agencies from across the nation have been working to bring these species back from near extinction and set them on the road to recovery. With several new salmon recovery plans in effect or about to take effect, it is imperative to fund these plans at least at current levels that will allow for full implementation of these plans to successfully recovering wild salmon and steelhead.

American Rivers appreciates the Committee's past support for this program and urges the funding be increased to $200 million in Fiscal Year 2009.

Submitted by:
Rebecca Osthus, Ph. D.
Science Policy Analyst
The American Physiological Society

This statement is submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies.

The American Physiological Society Statement on FY 2009 Funding For the National Science Foundation and NASA

The American Physiological Society (APS) thanks the Subcommittee for its commitment to scientific research at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Scientific research plays an important role in technological innovation and economic development and therefore is critical to the future of our nation. The APS recognizes that the NSF has benefited from recent budget increases, but is disappointed that the agency has fallen behind the budget levels endorsed by Congress and the Administration in the America COMPETES Act passed in 2007. **The APS recommends that the NSF be funded at the authorized level of $7.33 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, which will keep the agency on track to double its budget over the next several years.** While the overall budget for NASA continues to grow, the APS remains concerned about the lack of consistent funding for research into the effects of spaceflight on humans. **The APS recommends that funding for NASA's Human Research Program (HRP) be reinvigorated with increased funds in FY 2009.**

The APS is a professional society dedicated to fostering research and education as well as the dissemination of scientific knowledge concerning how the organs and systems of the body work. The Society was founded in 1887 and now has more than 10,000 members who do research and teach at public and private research institutions across the country, including colleges, universities, medical and veterinary schools. Many of our members conduct physiology research that is supported by funds allocated through the NSF and NASA. In this testimony, the APS offers its recommendations for FY 2009 funding for both agencies.

NSF

The basic science initiatives funded by the NSF are driven by the most fundamental principles of scientific inquiry. Although at times NSF-funded research may seem to be exploring questions that lack immediate practical application, we have learned again and again that the relevance of the knowledge gained becomes apparent over time. The NSF provides support for approximately 20% of federally funded basic science and is the major source of support for non-medical biology research, including integrative, comparative, and evolutionary biology, as well as interdisciplinary biological research.

The majority of the funding NSF provides is awarded through competitive, merit-based peer review, which ensures that the best possible projects are supported. NSF has an excellent record of accomplishment in terms of funding research endeavors that have produced results with far-reaching potential. Listed below are just a few of NSF's most recent advances in biological research.[1]

- Scientists have developed computational methods to catalog genes involved in memory and learning.
- Research into the molecular characteristics of degenerative neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and the human version of Mad Cow disease has revealed similar molecular pathology underlying all three diseases.
- Novel imaging techniques have been developed that could aid in the earlier diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, a disease that is especially deadly due to delayed detection.
- Studies of abnormally developed frogs led to the discovery that nutrient runoff from agriculture fuels parasitic infections that lead to developmental deformities in amphibians.
- Researchers studying flatworms (planaria) found that the connections between cells play a role in regulating how adult stem cells contribute to injury repair.

In addition to funding innovative research in labs around the country, the NSF also fosters the next generation of scientists through education programs. The APS has benefited from this support which allows us to provide training opportunities and career development activities to enhance the participation of underrepresented minorities in science. The APS was recognized for its efforts in 2003 with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM), funding for which was provided by NSF and was reinvested in our education programs. We believe that NSF is uniquely suited to administer science education programs of the highest quality, and we recommend that Congress continue to provide federal funds for science education through the NSF.

Passage of the America COMPETES Act showed that Congress is committed to fostering the NSF not only through increased appropriations, but also through explicit support for the agency's respected education programs. **We thank Congress for the passage of the America COMPETES Act and join the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) in recommending that the NSF be funded at the full authorized level of $7.33 billion in FY 2009.**

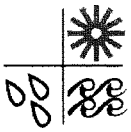
NASA

The Human Research Program (HRP) at NASA conducts research and develops countermeasures with the goal of enabling safe and productive human space exploration. During prolonged space flight, the physiological changes that occur due to microgravity, increased exposure to radiation, confined living quarters, and alterations in eating and sleeping patterns can lead to health problems and reduced ability to perform tasks. APS

scientists are actively engaged in research that explores the physiological basis of these problems, with the goal of contributing to the development of countermeasures.
Given NASA's current focus on manned space exploration, it is critical that resources be devoted to research into the health effects of prolonged space flight. NASA is the only agency whose mission includes addressing the biomedical challenges of manned space exploration. Over the years, the amount of money available for conducting this kind of research at NASA has dwindled, and this year the budget request for the Human Research Program stands at only $151.9 million. The cuts are especially troubling given the Administration's commitment to returning humans to space. NASA and the National Institutes of Health signed a memorandum of understanding in 2007 that provides a framework for the two agencies to work together and move health research forward. While the agreement does not involve any funding obligations, we are hopeful that the agencies will develop plans to take advantage of the opportunities for collaboration. The APS joins FASEB in applauding Congress' call in the FY 2008 Omnibus bill for NASA to "establish and ongoing relationship" with the National Academies for the purpose of "independent project review." Independent review will help ensure that resources are appropriately directed towards critical research programs.

The APS urges Congress and NASA to increase support for peer-reviewed research into the health risks of long-term space flight and development of appropriate countermeasures at a rate that meets or exceeds the biomedical research and development price index (BRDPI).

[1]Research examples from http://www.nsf.gov, accessed March 18, 2008.



National Weather Service Employees Organization

Testimony of Richard J. Hirn
General Counsel, National Weather Service Employees Organization
Submitted to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations
March 27, 2008

NWSEO is pleased to have this opportunity to submit testimony on the Administration's fiscal year 2009 budget request for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. But as we will explain herein, the amount requested for the National Weather Service is woefully inadequate to protect the American public.

Over the past several years, the United States has seen a dramatic increase in severe weather events. Fortunately for those in harm's way, the reliability and timeliness of the forecasts and warnings issued by the employees of the National Weather Service has dramatically increased as well.

For example, on February 5 and 6 of this year, an unseasonably early tornado outbreak rolled through the South and took the lives of at least 57 people in Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, and Georgia. This was the deadliest tornado outbreak in over 20 years. During that two day period, however, NWS forecasters issued 214 tornado warnings, which saved hundreds, if not thousands, of lives.

During March 17-20, record-breaking rainfall resulted in major flooding throughout the central, southern and eastern United States. Officials in Arkansas reported that flooding in some portions of the state was the most significant experienced in the last 20 years. The Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio Rivers and their tributaries flooded; a number of Interstates were closed and communities cut-off. President Bush declared parts of Missouri a disaster area, and the death toll exceeds 17.

But the loss of life and property were minimized because of the National Weather Service, which issued flood warnings from Texas to Pennsylvania. The NWS informed the public of the potential for heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in a "hazardous weather outlook" as early as March 12. Weather Forecast Offices throughout the central United States began issuing flash flood "watches"

as early as Sunday, March 16, and more specific "warnings" as early as Monday, March 17. The "watches" gave an average of 32 hours notice of actual flooding. The NWS also provided an average of 15 hours of warning that rivers would rise to flood stage. The North Central, Missouri Basin, and the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Centers all went into 24 hour a day operations. The NWS supported local and state emergency management personnel as well as FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers throughout the flooding, which has not yet abated.

But the ability of the NWS to respond to severe weather is in immediate jeopardy due to chronic underfunding, which has left the NWS at least $ 50 million short of what it needs to do its mission. In the words of one NWS regional director, underfunding has left NWS operations on thin ice – and that ice is melting.

The largest single impact of underfunding is staffing of local forecast offices, river forecast centers, and national forecasting operations. The NWS is intentionally delaying the filling of critical operational vacancies because of insufficient funding in the line items "Local Warnings and Forecasts" and "Central Forecast Guidance." This "lapsed labor" rate is 5% of the NWS workforce. In other words, 5% of all positions are intentionally held vacant - they were filled gradually, but the NWS intentionally delays filling new vacancies that are created as forecasters and mission support personnel retire or move elsewhere. Lapsed labor is, in effect, a rolling hiring freeze. Over 200 positions will be vacant at any one time in FY 08 due to lack of funds; this number has doubled in the past four years. Most of these positions are needed for day to day forecast and warning operations. Few people realize that **generally there are only two people on duty at any given hour of the day at each of the NWS 122 forecast offices** which are responsible for forecasting weather and issuing warnings for multi-county (and in some cases, multi-state) areas where ten million or more people live. As this skeletal staffing grows thinner, the forecast offices and specialized forecast centers will no longer be able to issue timely watches and warnings of severe weather.

NWS FTE/Position Lapse Rates: Analysis: FY 2004 - FY 2008 (O&R)

	Unlapsed FTE Allocation	Planned Lapse Rates	Lapse Rate Increase (-03)	Lapsed Plan FTEs	Lapsed Plan FTE Variance	Lapse FTE Increase (-03)	Avg. Cost Per FTE	Lapse Savings	Lapse Savings YY
FY 2004	4,512.34	2.43%	0.00%	4,400.23	112.06	-	$ 98,065		
FY 2005	4,559.49	3.41%	0.93%	4,403.33	156.16	44.10	$ 102,979	$ 4,541,374	$ 4,541,374
FY 2006	4,578.00	3.94%	1.45%	4,387.06	190.94	72.33	$ 127,496	$ 8,479,254	$ 3,937,911
FY 2007	4,626.96	4.00%	1.51%	4,430.64	196.31	84.25	$ 110,714	$ 9,327,655	$ 848,270
FY 2008	4,628.59	4.94%	2.46%	4,400.23	228.66	116.60	$ 113,863	$ 13,288,058	$ 3,960,431

The NWS also now faces a crisis in its communications technology. The NWS no longer has the Internet bandwidth sufficient to timely transmit the intense graphical weather data generated by its forecasters. This results in a delay in transmission of data between NWS national forecast centers and 122 local forecast offices; and between the forecast offices and media outlets and emergency preparedness agencies. This can result in a failure in the dissemination of weather data from the NWS forecast offices and centers during severe weather when it is most needed. The NWS needs $7.9 million to upgrade the bandwidth, but the money is not there, and it will not be requested any earlier than the FY 2010 appropriations cycle.

In addition to staffing and Internet bandwidth, the NWS has identified $9.1 million in **ongoing programs and projects that will go unfunded this year**. These include:

- scheduled development and testing of improvements to forecasting software;

- forecaster training necessary for service improvements;

- an "Incident Support Specialist" program that will dispatch meteorologists to provide on-site forecasts at both natural and man-made disasters;

- overdue improvements to the forecasts of hurricane intensity;

- acquisition of software and communications equipment that will improve service at the Center Weather Service Units that provide weather support to the FAA's Air Route Traffic Control Centers;

- and improvements to the Excessive Heat Health Forecasts and Warnings system that could help save the lives of 1500 people each year.

One of the critical under funded programs is the NWS' Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado, which provides warnings of solar driven magnetic "storms" that interfere with the air transport system, electrical power grid continuity, space operations and Global Positioning Satellites. In 2011, there will be a "solar max" event - the most significant increase in solar flare activity in 50 years. Solar flares send charged particles crashing into the outer fringes of the Earth's atmosphere at high velocity, generating auroras and geomagnetic storms and disrupting GPS navigation. The Space Weather Prediction Center needs an additional $ 1 million this year to remedy information technology security, reliability and vulnerabilities. The Center may be required to cease operations if these are not remedied. In addition, the Center needs an additional $500,000 this

year in order to prepare for the impact that the 2011 "solar max" will have on the accuracy of the GPS system.

Despite these requirements, underfunding of the NWS grows worse every year. In the FY 08 Omnibus, Congress reduced funding of base NWS programs by $14.5 million to pay for Congressional earmarks, most of which were superfluous to NWS needs or do not support NWS programs. This included $4.4 million in grants to universities; a $5.3 million non-bid contract for weather senors which the NWS did not request; $229,400 to a local museum in St. Johnsbury, Vermont and $200,000 to study bird migration in Vermont. NWSEO realizes that almost all of these earmarks were requested by the Senate, and not by the House, and that last year this Committee actually added $2.8 million to the President's request, specifically designated as "additional funding for NWS staffing." Nonetheless, the amount of funding ultimately cut from base NWS programs to pay for these earmarks is equivalent to:

- The salaries and benefits of 123 forecasters;
- The entire amount that the NWS spends annually to train its workforce; or
- More than twice the annual budget of the National Hurricane Center.

When adjusted for inflation (using OMB's "adjustment to base" figures), ***funding for NWS operations actually fell $16.6 million*** between FY 2007 and FY 2008 when earmarks are removed from each year's appropriations.

NOAA has requested an additional $5,486,000 in FY 09 to "be used in increase base levels of funding for various on-going programs within this subactivity" in addition to an "adjustment to base" for inflationary increases. (see page 3-40 of FY 2009 NOAA budget summary). This is only a small down payment on the $50 million needed to restore the erosion in funding of base programs, and doesn't even restore the funding reductions which resulted from last year's earmarks.

As the Committee may be aware, NWSEO represents not only the employees of the National Weather Service, but also employees throughout NOAA, including the attorneys in NOAA's Office of General Counsel; the civilian crews aboard NOAA's aircraft; the technicians at NESDIS' Command and Data Acquisition Station at Wallops Island, Virginia; and the hurricane researchers and other scientists and support personnel at the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Key Biscayne, Florida. NWSEO is a signatory to the March 12 letter which was sent to the Committee by a coalition of NOAA stakeholders, the "Friends of

NOAA." In this letter, we discussed why the $4.1 billion requested by the Administration for NOAA is insufficient to fund NOAA's critical programs, and requested the Committee's support for an appropriation of $4.5 billion. As we noted, using Fiscal Year 2005 as a baseline, the agency's budget would need to be $4.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2009 just to remain level in constant dollars. We urged the Committee to give careful consideration to the thoughtful arguments for higher funding made by NWSEO and our colleagues in this letter.

The employees of the National Weather Service and the other NOAA employees our organization represents thank the Subcommittee for considering their views and for its continued support for the National Weather Service and the many other important programs within NOAA.

Testimony in Support of Increased FY 2009 Funding for the National Science Foundation

March 28, 2008

Submitted by:

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Submitted to:

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance) encourages the Committee to provide the National Science Foundation (NSF) with $7.326 billion for fiscal year (FY) 2009, the funding level authorized by the America COMPETES Act.

The NSC Alliance is a nonprofit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. Our members are part of an international community of museums, botanical gardens, herbariums, universities and other institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, public service, service to governmental entities such as public health, agriculture, homeland security, defense, natural resource conservation, and outreach activities for the betterment of society.

Although the President's FY 2009 budget request recognizes the need to increase funding for the NSF, the request would only provide a modest two-year adjustment for NSF programs such as the Biological Sciences directorate (BIO). Thus, we encourage the Committee to work to provide NSF funding at the level authorized in the America COMPETES Act (PL 110-69),

which, with the Committee's prior guidance to the Administration to support all NSF research directorates, would enable a modest increase for BIO.

NSF's BIO directorate is vital to our nation's continued leadership in the biological sciences, the fields of science dedicated to understanding how organisms and ecological systems function. Research disciplines heavily dependent upon the directorate include botany, ecology, microbiology, zoology, basic molecular and cellular biology, and systematics and taxonomy. Equally important, NSF provides essential support for our nation's biological research infrastructure, such as natural science collections, university-based natural history museums, and field stations. These research centers enable scientists and students to study the basic data of life for the history of the planet, conduct modern biological and environmental research, and provide undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to learn directly from nature.

Government data clearly shows the importance of NSF's BIO to our research enterprise. BIO provides 67 percent of federal grant support for fundamental biological research conducted at our nation's universities and other nonprofit research centers, such as natural history museums. Transformative research in the biological sciences has advanced our understanding of complex living systems and is leading the way forward in addressing major challenges – protecting the environment, conserving biodiversity, and developing new bio-inspired technology. As NSF director Dr. Arden Bement told this Committee during a recent hearing, we are in "the bio century" and bioscience is "where the fundamental work is being done."

The President's FY 2009 budget request would provide $5.594 billion to support disciplinary research programs within the Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account. This funding level would provide an average 16.0 percent increase over FY 2008 estimated appropriations for the R&RA account; however, within R&RA, proposed budget increases are spread unevenly among the directorates. For example, the Mathematical and Physical Sciences directorate would increase $235.36 million (20.2 percent) and the Engineering directorate would increase $122.46 million (19.2 percent) over their respective FY 08 estimated appropriations while BIO is slated for just a $63.04 million increase (10.3 percent).

This would be understandable and acceptable if it were a one-year anomaly. However, this pattern of funding has become the norm – leaving some directorates, such as BIO, SBE (Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences) and GEO (Geosciences) behind. The nation's valuable and irreplaceable biological scientific resources that transcend time, as represented by its natural science collections amassed over more than 200 years, and its biological scientific vitality, as demonstrated by research funded through the BIO directorate, are in great need of additional funding. This is particularly true given current threats to natural habitats, biodiversity, environmental contaminants, introduced species and emerging diseases, than at any time in the past. The increased need for funding for these programs is ignored at great peril to the biological research capacity of the nation.

In contrast to the President's budget request, COMPETES authorizes $5.742 million for R&RA in FY 2009, and would provide an average 19.1 percent increase over FY 2008 appropriations. Moreover, COMPETES-authorized funding levels would provide NSF with the necessary funding to provide BIO with a 19 percent increase, placing it more on-par with the

trajectory of other directorates and recognizing the importance of biological research to the nation's scientific well-being.

Administration officials point to the importance of aligning the budget with priorities articulated in both the American Competitiveness Initiative and the America COMPETES Act. Yet, language in COMPETES (Public Law No: 110-69, Sec. 7018(b)) calls for parity in funding among scientific disciplines by specifying, "The Director shall give priority in the selection of awards and the allocation of Foundation resources to proposed research activities, and grants funded under the Foundation's Research and Related Activities Account, that can be expected to make contributions in physical or natural science, technology, engineering, social sciences, or mathematics, or that enhance competitiveness, innovation, or safety and security in the United States."

Members of the natural sciences community are concerned that inadequate funding is being provided to fundamental biological, social, and environmental sciences. This research is central to our ability to understand the world in which we live. More immediately, however, this research provides the knowledge required to understand and mitigate the emerging threats and uncertainties associated with global environmental change.

For twelve years, the research grant funding rate for BIO has been consistently lower than the NSF-wide funding rate. In 2008, the research grant funding rate was only 15 percent compared with an agency-wide rate of 21 percent. Unfortunately, this trend occurs at a time when BIO is contributing the largest percentage of federal dollars to basic biological sciences research and the number and scope of problems requiring biological information continues to increase.

Funding for NSF at the level authorized by the America COMPETES Act would enable more robust investments in the five core programs supported by BIO: Molecular and Cellular Biosciences; Integrative Organismal Systems; Environmental Biology; Biological Infrastructure; and Emerging Frontiers.

BIO provides essential support for the development and maintenance of important research infrastructure (e.g., natural science collections) that is necessary to advance our understanding of biological systems. There is a growing national awareness of the need to reinvest in the physical and personnel resources associated with our nation's scientific infrastructure represented by its natural science collections. Evidence for this may be found in the annual Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum to federal agencies on Research and Development priorities, which has charged federal agencies to evaluate the needs of the collections they host or support. A federal interagency working group on scientific collections has also been established. As part of this effort, NSF is surveying non-federal research collections to gain a better understanding of the nature of our nation's holdings.

Unfortunately, the FY 2009 budget request for the Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI) is $86.99 million, only 0.1 percent more than DBI's FY 2008 appropriation ($86.94 million). The biological sciences community is increasingly concerned that decreasing

investment in the tools of science, namely the facilities, collections, and instruments that enable discovery, will have profound and negative impacts on the science. Indeed, the United States is presently lagging behind many other nations in moving toward full utilization of its natural science resources through Internet based access to digitized data instantly available to researchers, government officials, health workers, agricultural scientists and others who require instant access to such data. In some cases, data in natural science collections in the United States are difficult to access, incompletely catalogued, not available in digital format, and maintained in buildings that are inadequate to preserve such valuable resources. Increased funding for BIO would be a first step toward mitigating these difficulties. The time to act is now.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request and for your prior support of the National Science Foundation.

Testimony of
Simi Batra
Senior Legislative Representative
The Trust for Public Land

Before the
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

April 2, 2008

On behalf of The Trust for Public Land, I thank the Chairman, Ranking Member and subcommittee members for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Simi Batra and I have been with The Trust for Public Land for the eight years. I am testifying today in support of $60 million for the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Account in FY 2009.

The Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Since 1972, TPL has worked with willing landowners, community groups, and national, state, and local agencies to complete more than 3,000 land conservation projects in 46 states, protecting more than 2.2 million acres. TPL has also helped states and communities craft and pass over 330 ballot measures, generating almost $25 billion in new conservation-related funding.

TPL works in nearly every state in the nation, from West Virginia and New Jersey to California and Hawaii. We have long worked to conserve our dwindling coastal open spaces, but putting together the necessary funding to help our state and local government partners acquire real estate for public benefit has become more and more of a challenge in an increasingly escalating real estate market. Yet the need for more public open space, particularly along our coastal areas, has only increased. And the American people have responded to that need.

Across the country, dozens of state and local governments each year vote to raise public funds in support of land conservation. In 2007, voters across the country approved 64 of 98 conservation finance ballot measures, a 65 percent approval rate. Since 1988 voters have approved nearly $46 billion dollars to fund the protection of open space, parks, wildlife habitats, watersheds, farms, and ranchlands. In 2008, the country will likely eclipse the $50 billion mark. We have found that regardless of whether the economy is robust or weak, American voters have strongly supported conservation finance measures that preserve natural lands, create parks, and protect farmland. Communities that have approved conservation measures are as widespread and diverse as the purposes to which they have committed funds. Conservation finance ballot measures have passed in urban and rural communities in nearly all 50 states. Funds approved by

individual measures range from a few hundred thousand dollars to several billion dollars and have supported purposes including parks and playgrounds, farmland preservation, watershed protection, trails and greenways, forests, and wildlife habitat. Despite the success of state and local ballot initiatives, the federal share of this partnership is crucial.

Our nation's coastal zone is under significant pressures from unplanned development. In fact, it is estimated that by 2025, nearly 75 per cent of the nation's population will live within 50 miles of the coast, in addition to millions more who enjoy America's storied coastlines. Across the nation, beaches and waterfronts have always been the destination of choice for Americans. Billions of dollars of the country's GDP are generated by coast-based economic activities, inexorably linking our coastal zone with the economic health of the nation.

As a result of this economic boom, rapid, unplanned development has marred once-pristine viewsheds and substantially reduced public access to the coast. The resulting increase in impervious surfaces has correspondingly increased nonpoint source pollution and seriously degraded coastal and estuarine waters. The loss of coastal wetlands has drastically impaired estuaries, some of the most productive habitat on earth. Both the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission reports have stressed the importance of land conservation as part of their broader recommendations to Congress and the nation.

In 2002, this subcommittee, along with your Senate counterparts, realized that need and stepped up to enhance the federal role of the federal-state coastal conservation partnership by creating the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP). In FY 2002, its initial year, CELCP was funded at approximately $15 million. To date, Congress has appropriated over $200 million for CELCP. This funding has allowed for the completion of over 100 conservation projects, with several dozen still in progress. CELCP projects in 26 of the nation's 35 coastal states have already helped preserve close to 35,000 acres of some of America's greatest coastal treasures.

CELCP was created to protect "those coastal and estuarine areas with significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational states to other uses." TPL has had the distinct pleasure of partnering with Congress, NOAA, and state and local governments to help conserve nearly three-dozen parcels using CELCP funding. In all cases, federal CELCP dollars were matched by at least an equal amount of nonfederal match.

The President recognized the importance of this program by including a first-ever recommendation for funding in the FY08 budget at $15 million, and again reiterated that commitment in FY09. We are hopeful that the FY08 final funding level of $8 million was an aberration based on unique budget circumstances, and encourage you to maintain the bipartisan federal-state partnership and fund CELCP at $60 million for FY 2009.

TPL's CELCP work appropriately reflects the diversity of projects and flexibility that this important – and very popular- program can offer. Some of our signature CELCP projects include:

- **Village Point, Daphne, Alabama:** The 51-acre Village Point parcel, on the shores of Mobile Bay, is located immediately adjacent to the Richard Scarmadalia Park and has significantly added to the city's open space and recreational opportunities. The property contains significant wooded areas and wetlands formed by tidal sloughs that connect to Mobile Bay. In addition, the Village Point tract includes the historic Jackson Oak, thought to be the site where Gen. Andrew Jackson addressed his troops on the march from Pensacola to New Orleans in 1814, as well as the 195-year-oldd D'Olive Cemetery and prehistoric burial mounds. The historic, cultural, and recreational resources, particularly access to Mobile Bay, that are found at the Village Point property are significant and important to the community. Designated a National Estuary Program site in 1995, Alabama's Mobile Bay ranks as one of our nation's most significant estuaries. Seven river systems make up the watershed, and due to isolation over time, the basin contains a high number of species found nowhere else in the world.

- **Piedras Blancas, California;** Piedras Blancas is one of very few places along an 18-mile stretch of the famed Hearst coastline where visitors can safely pull off the highway, park in a lot, and walk down a paved path to the beach. For 50 years, Piedras Blancas was a privately owned resort including a motel, café, gift shop, and gas station. Located just seven miles north of Hearst Castle, it was the only facility serving visitors along the stretch of highway between Ragged Point and San Simeon. Now State Parks has the opportunity to provide much needed public facilities including an interpretive center on the area's natural history and the elephant seals populating its beaches, improved restrooms and other public amenities, and potential for a youth hostel and camping. Piedras Blancas was conveyed into public ownership in 2007, and will be managed by California State Parks for recreation, visitor education, wildlife habitat, and scenic resources.

- **Salt Island Overlook, Westbrook, Connecticut:** The seven-acre Salt Island Overlook property, one of the last open coastal properties in Westbrook with a view of Long Island Sound, was protected using a mix of CELCP and Town Open Space funding in 2004. In 1997, the Long Island Sound Study identified the tidal wetlands in this area as a priority site for habitat restoration. The land had been threatened by the encroaching development of single-family homes. Conserving the Salt Island Overlook property has significantly increased public access and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, making it a prime spot for picnicking, bird watching, and enjoying spectacular views of Long Island Sound.

- **Maquoit Bay, Brunswick, Maine:** Once public and private funding is assembled, TPL will convey to the Town of Brunswick a 171-acre property along the northwest shore of Maquoit Bay, preserving it as open space, protecting its health and scenic beauty, and greatly increasing coastal access for the town's

residents and visitors. The area contains freshwater streams, salt marshes, and a commercial clamming and worming operation that produces $300,000 annually in harvests. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes the area as the most important habitat area in Casco Bay. In NOAA's first-ever national ranking of CELCP projects – which was based on a directive from this subcommittee – Maquoit Bay ranked first nationally, and we are hopeful that NOAA's FY07 spending plan will soon be released and that this project will receive the additional CELCP funding it needs.

- **Holly Grove Swamp, Berlin, Maryland:** In 2005, Worcester County, in cooperation with TPL and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, protected the Golden Quarter Farm, a 156-acre tract of land located in the Holly Grove Swamp conservation area. The property, which includes about one-mile of shoreline along Ayres Creek, will be protected in perpetuity through a conservation easement. This project was the first in CELCP project in Maryland and only the second CELCP conservation easement nationwide. While the property will remain in private ownership, the easement will held by Worcester County for management as wildlife habitat for migrating songbirds and many species of reptiles and amphibians. The acquisition of this easement will not only protect this property from development in one of the last large contiguous areas of wooded land left on the mainland adjacent to Ocean City, it will also help preserve water quality and the area's scenic beauty.

- **Potter Creek, Berkeley Township, New Jersey**: The 115-acre Potter Creek property in Berkeley Township, Ocean County – the state's fastest growing county – was added to county's open space network of protected lands. Proposed as the location for 130 homes -- a move that would have a significant negative impact on adjacent wetlands and Barnegat Bay, the property is now conserved as public open space. This property is a Barnegat Bay "Century Plan" site. "The Century Plan: A Study of One Hundred Conservation Sites in the Barnegat Bay Watershed" was published in 1995 by TPL and describes 100 high-priority conservation and public-access sites in need of protection in the Barnegat Bay watershed. Funding for this project came from nine funding sources, including CELCP, state, county, town and private sources.

- **Houston Area Bayous, Texas:** Although these urban acquisitions are small -- .13 acres and .18 acres -- they make a tremendous impact on an inner city neighborhood in transition. The area along Brays Bayou in Houston has historically been a diverse and dynamic community. Just across the street from the Houston Ship Channel is an area mixed with industrial uses and an underserved neighborhood. By eventually protecting a nearly one-mile stretch along Brays Bayou, TPL and the Houston Parks Board will create the opportunity for a trail, connecting the Houston Ship Channel to Mason Park, one of the few neighborhood parks in the area. Funding for these acquisitions and those to follow comes from a combination of federal CELCP dollars and funding from the Houston Endowment.

- **Jamestown, Virginia:** A 202-acre parcel -- the Jamestown Campsites and Public Marina properties on the James River and Powhatan Creek – was designated Anniversary Park, center stage for "America's 400th Anniversary" in May 2007, the commemoration of the founding of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. That weekend was the centerpiece of America's 400th Anniversary, an 18-month celebration honoring the 1607 founding of the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. The Jamestown Campsites tract was a private campground with frontage on the James River. The site was part of the Revolutionary War Battle of Green Spring, where troops torched the plantation of Sir William Berkeley, Royal governor of the Virginia colony. The Jamestown Public Marina serves as an important public amenity on Powhatan Creek, providing boating access to the James River and water tours of Jamestown Island. Acquisition ensured protection of on-site and nearby historic and archaeological resources and public access to the James River, as well as conserving marshland. Both properties are now owned by James City County, and were purchased with a mixture of CELCP, state and county funds.

- **Saxine Creek/Bibon Swamp, Bayfield County, Wisconsin:** In 2000, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources undertook a study to identify places that would be critical in meeting the state's conservation and recreation needs over the next fifty years. Because of the recreational and scenic opportunities, lakefront lands are highly sought-after for resort residential or second home development. Two state-identified sites located in Bayfield County, in the northwest portion of the state on Lake Superior, were protected using CELCP funding: The 234-acre Saxine Creek tract, and the 454-acre Bibon Swamp State Natural Area, the largest wetland in Bayfield County. The property is adjacent to the White River, a tributary that flows into Bad River and Kakagon Sloughs. This wetland area may be the largest freshwater estuarine system of this size, type, and quality in the world.

These examples briefly demonstrate the breadth of CELCP's successes and the versatility of the program. From pristine salmon runs to dense urban areas, the need for coastal open space is only increasing.

We are hopeful that Congress will reinvigorate this program by funding CELCP at $60 million in FY09. Adequate funding levels will sustain the federal-state partnership, and ensure the national commitment to coastal conservation. I again thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and look forward to working with you as this process moves forward.

Statement of the American Society for Microbiology
Submitted to the
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
on Fiscal Year 2009 Funding for the National Science Foundation

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is pleased to submit the following testimony on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 appropriation for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The ASM is the largest single life science organization with more than 42,000 members. The ASM mission is to enhance the science of microbiology, to gain a better understanding of life processes, and to promote the application of this knowledge for improved health and environmental well-being.

The President requests a 13 percent increase in the NSF's budget for FY 2009 for a total funding level of $6.85 billion. Included in this request is $5.6 billion for Research and Related Activities (R&RA), an increase of $773 million, or 16 percent above FY 2008. With the 16 percent growth, NSF anticipates supporting an additional 1,370 research grants, which will help increase the overall funding rate to 23 percent from the 21 percent rate in FY 2008. However, the success rates in many important biological sciences programs remain below 20 percent. The ASM, therefore, recommends a 16 percent, or $98 million, increase for BIO, consistent with the requested increase for R&RA. The ASM also recommends that the overall increase for R&RA be $808 million, or 16.8 percent, and the overall increase for NSF be 13.6 percent above FY 2008, to cover ASM's recommended increase for BIO without affecting the requested increases for other programs.

The NSF plays a critical role in the discovery of new knowledge in the biological sciences. The Society has a number of concerns about BIO funding for the biological sciences, which are discussed below. Our nation's competitiveness in areas such as nanotechnology, climate change, water sustainability, and alternative energy sources depends on innovation in the biological sciences. It is essential that NSF continue strong support for the biological sciences to maintain and expand the contributions of biological sciences research for human, environmental, and economic well being.

The NSF has successfully leveraged its resources for over half a century to promote progress in all fields of science and to enhance its effectiveness and productivity. The NSF builds the nation's research capability through investments in advanced instrumentation and facilities, and by supporting excellence in science and engineering research and education through its competitive, peer-reviewed grants programs. These activities are essential for increasing the nation's economic and scientific competitiveness. Nearly 90 percent of the NSF's budget supports extramural grants, selected through a competitive merit review process, that meet the mission of the Foundation "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense..." The NSF has been especially responsive to and benefited from supporting individual investigators and investigator-initiated ideas.

The ASM particularly supports increased funding for R&RA. This funding will promote support for unsolicited grants that potentially advance the frontiers of learning and discovery. The ASM enthusiastically supports the continuation of the NSF's tradition of funding investigator-initiated research.

NSF Biological Sciences
The NSF provides 67 percent, about two-thirds, of federal support for US academic basic research in non-medical biological sciences. This means that NSF's BIO, is arguably the most important source of non-medical funding for biological research, infrastructure, and education in the US. Through its long history of productivity and innovation, biological research supported by the NSF has been critical for understanding issues of national importance such as the environment, economy, agriculture, and human welfare.

NSF funding is not only important for understanding the functions and behaviors of organisms, it is especially important for understanding how organisms, such as microbes, function and interact with physical and chemical systems. For example, basic biological research has provided physicists and chemists with model systems used in nanotechnology, chemical production and renewable energy generation, each of which are important for American competitiveness. Thus, it is essential to continue strong investments in the biological sciences, since they translate to advances in physical, mathematical, engineering, and computational sciences.

The Administration has proposed an FY 2009 budget for BIO of $675 million, an increase of 10.3 percent over FY 2008. This increase continues along the proposed track of the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI). The ASM is concerned that funding for BIO since FY 2003 has flattened and even decreased. The success rate of competitive awards for BIO in FY 2009 is estimated at 19 percent, well below the overall NSF estimated funding rate of 23 percent. Additionally, some programs within BIO have funding rates less than 14 percent, such as the Microbial Observatories/Microbial Interactions and Processes (MO/MIP) programs, Assembling the Tree of Life program, and the Ecology of Infectious Diseases program. Funding rates for BIO research grants have been consistently lower than agency wide average research funding rates, and the gap between BIO and agency wide funding rates has increasingly widened in the last three years.

Scientific opportunities in the biological sciences are increasing significantly, illustrated by the estimated 20 percent increase in BIO research grant proposals from FY 2003 through FY 2007. However, as opportunities have steadily increased, BIO research grant funding rates have decreased significantly from 26 percent in FY 2003 down to an estimated 19 percent in FY 2007.

Growth in BIO is essential for progress in the biological sciences. Growth in the total NSF budget should be reflected by real growth in BIO as well as other NSF directorates. We, therefore, recommend an increase in the BIO budget consistent with the President's request for R&RA in FY 2009, of 16 percent, for a total of $710 million.

Research in BIO is key to providing fundamental support that is needed for research supported by other NSF directorates. The rapid growth in knowledge by the biological sciences is resulting in the formation of new multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary efforts that often involve physical and chemical sciences and engineering. Advances in programs in bioenergy and biophysics now depend as much on biology as they do on other scientific disciplines. BIO supports scientific disciplines other than the biological sciences through programs such as Environmental Genomics, MO/MIP, and contributes to interagency priorities, such as climate change and the new NSF-wide program Dynamics of Water Processes in the Environment (WATER).

BIO MO/MIP
In addition to its general concerns about biological sciences funding, the ASM is concerned with a proposal to shift funding in FY 2009 to strengthen core BIO programs and to eliminate support

for the demonstrably highly successful Microbial Observatories (MO), Microbial Interactions and Processes (MIP) programs. These programs represent the only sustained national initiatives to describe broadly and understand the diversity of microbial life within the US. Loss of these programs will mean that other nations with which the US competes in biotechnology (e.g., China, Japan, Korea, Germany) will continue to support efforts to discover microbial diversity, while the US decreases support.

Differences in funding emphases between existing core programs and microbe- specific programs will likely lead to lower success rates and less funding for microbial researchers. Funding success rates for MO/MIP are already less than 10 percent. The ASM recommends that MO and MIP should be identified as a part of the core programs in BIO, rather than be discontinued. The ASM also recommends increased support for MO/MIP.

Maintaining programs such as MO/MIP is essential to ensure continued discovery of the microbial world, over 99 percent of which remains undescribed. Because they are ubiquitous and functionally more diverse than all plants and animals combined, microbes continue to offer enormous economic potential for industry, agriculture, and medicine. Bioprospecting has already led to many commercial applications, including probiotics, biofuels, and wastewater treatment. The wealth of bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms that have yet to be cultivated or understood comprise an untapped resource for industry, agriculture, and medicine.

Loss of MO/MIP cannot help but reduce our nation's competitiveness and ability to sustain leadership in microbial biology. Loss of these programs will also adversely affect agricultural research involving a collaboration between USDA and NSF.

NEON

The ASM supports the establishment of the National Environmental Observatories Network (NEON), which will be the first national ecological measurement and observation system designed to answer fundamental regional- to continental-scale scientific questions about the current state of major ecosystems and their response to climate change and other disturbances. Full implementation of the NEON platform will transform our ability to detect and predict changes in ecosystems, and to provide information necessary to respond to change. Integration of microbial biology into the NEON framework also promises to provide a new level of understanding of the interactions between microbes, ecosystems and climate change. The ASM strongly encourages this integration through expanded funding in BIO, and expresses its concern that funding for NEON-related research not reduce the capacities of current BIO programs.

Support for Geosciences, Engineering, and Physical Sciences

Biology and microbial biology are important components of all the research directorates at NSF and should be strongly supported within them. The ASM supports the FY 2009 proposed increases in funding for the research activities at the Geosciences Directorate (GEO), the Engineering Directorate (ENG), and the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate (MPS).

The Geobiology and Low-Temperature Geochemistry program in GEO provides an example of the mutually beneficial relationship between biological sciences and geosciences. Among other areas, this program examines interactions between biological and geological systems at all scales of space and time, interactions between microbes and economically important resources, and interactions among microbes, minerals and groundwater. The Geobiology and Low-Temperature Geochemistry Program also facilitates cross-disciplinary efforts to harness new bioanalytical tools, such as those emerging from molecular biology. The ASM supports the proposed request of $178 million for Earth Sciences (EAR), an increase of $22 million, or 14 percent, above FY

2008, with an emphasis towards increased support for the biological geosciences and $354 million for Ocean Sciences Funding (OCE), an increase of $43 million, or 14 percent above FY 2008.

Similarly, the Engineering Directorate employs microbial research to examine problems involved in the processing and manufacture of economically important products, and in the efficient utilization of chemical resources and renewable bioresources. Much of this work depends on bioinformatics originating from genomic and proteomic studies. The ASM supports the proposed request of $173 million for Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET), an increase of $42 million or 32 percent, above FY 2008. High emphasis applications for the biological sciences within this program include postgenomic engineering, tissue engineering, biophotonics, nano-biosystems, and biotechnology, leading to improved biosensors, biomaterials, and controlled drug release.

Collaboration with other scientific disciplines is also very important for continued progress in physics, including biological physics at molecular and cellular levels. MPS supports interdisciplinary research that greatly benefits the physical sciences as well as the biological sciences by creating tools that assist in advancing biological research and other disciplines. The ASM also supports the NSF-wide investment, Dynamics of Water Processes in the Environment (WATER). WATER supports research on living organisms in freshwater ecological systems.

Workforce Development and Training

Support for science and engineering education, from pre-K through graduate school and beyond is an essential part of NSF's mission. Research funded by NSF is thoroughly integrated with education to help ensure that there will always be a skilled workforce to support new and future scientific, engineering, and technological fields, and a robust community of educators to train and inspire coming generations.

In FY 2007 BIO alone, support approximately 13,000 people, including senior researchers, other professionals, postdoctorates, graduate students, undergraduate students, and K-12 teachers. Due to flat funding in FY 2008, this number dropped to approximately 12,700. Increased support for the NSF is essential to fostering a competitive, well-trained scientific workforce. The proposed increase for BIO is estimated to support over 13,500 senior researchers, other professionals, postdoctorates, graduate students, undergraduate students, and K-12 teachers.

Conclusion

Support for the NSF is essential for maintaining and improving the nation's scientific and economic competitiveness. The ASM recommends a 13.6 percent increase in funding for the NSF, slightly above the President's request, but below the NSF's authorized level for FY 2009. However, the ASM is concerned that BIO has suffered from flat funding over the last six years and we recommend at least a 16 percent increase for BIO, the same as the increase proposed by the President for the entire Research and Related Activities, of which BIO is a part. This increase will recapture ground lost to inflation, expand the currently successful programs, and take advantage of new scientific opportunities in the biological sciences, such as metagenomics. Increased funding for the NSF should ensure adequate funding for all areas of science. One of the primary strengths of the NSF is its ability to catalyze important interactions among research disciplines in the physical and biological sciences. Consequently, all science must be well funded and encouraged.

The ASM appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony and would be pleased to assist the Subcommittee as it considers the FY 2009 appropriation for the NSF.

Alice E. White
Vice President, Bell Labs North America
Alcatel-Lucent

April 2, 2008

Comments to the U. S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science

Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen, good morning. My name is Alice White. I am a condensed matter physicist, currently serving as the Vice President of Bell Labs North America. I would first like to extend my deep appreciation to the Subcommittee members and their staffs for the opportunity to share my comments on issues related to the roles that the Federal Government can assume in promoting the sciences and research innovations that will benefit the citizens of this Country. Specifically, I would like to address two issues. First, I'd like to briefly characterize a particularly effective model of government-sponsored research collaboration that we have employed within Bell Labs. And second, I'd like to discuss the challenges of adapting to the increasingly global nature of the research community.

As you may know, Bell Labs is a research institution with a relatively strong record of innovation, discovery, and contribution. Since its formation, Bell Labs has given rise to more Nobel Prize winners in Physics than any other institution in the world. Our researchers have been honored by receiving nine U.S. National Medals of Science, 12 U.S. National Medals of Technology, two Draper Awards, an Emmy, and a Grammy. Its alumni have gone on to become professors in many of the leading universities, or have become members in other top industry and government research institutions. Today, Bell Labs has about 40% of its people residing in the United States, 20% in France, 20% in Germany, 12% in other European countries, 5% in Asia, and 3% in Canada. We maintain collaborative relationships with over 250 universities throughout the world.

As an industrial lab, our approach to research is quite different from an academic or national laboratory. On one hand, we have a preeminent basic research capability, and also afford our scientists significant opportunities to explore fundamental issues without imposing extensive restrictions. However, since we prioritize the integration of fundamental research advances into innovative products and economic value creation, we are more attuned to the application of that research to addressing commercial opportunities and the research is evaluated on market price and performance expectations.

Other types of research institutions have alternative, but equally essential directives. Academic research is extraordinarily valuable in generally providing a far wider range of research alternatives and considerations while enabling a rich learning experience for students. National laboratories and research institutions provide value by helping to

prioritize research in areas of national importance that might not otherwise be forthcoming from the other segments of the research community.

In Bell Labs, we have employed a model that promotes collaboration among these multiple research parties, and the results have been extremely beneficial on multiple fronts. Let me briefly describe on such example.

In the suburbs of Dublin, Ireland, in an Alcatel-Lucent building, Bell Labs and Trinity College co-manage the Center for Telecommunications Value Chain Driven Research which is a consortium of Bell Labs and nine separate universities. This program is chartered with conducting research in next generation manufacturing technologies. Funding is provided by the Science Foundation of Ireland, the Investment and Development Authority of Ireland, and Alcatel-Lucent. I should add that nothing in this model would exclude other industry research groups from participating.

In addition to the actual and beneficial research assets that have emerged from this program, there are other more significant benefits that impact each of the parties. The center attracts leading global talent and provides a fertile and lively environment for generating innovations for the host country. The research partnerships enable the universities to provide expanded and enhanced opportunities for academic internships, and provide faculty with state-of-the-art knowledge to promulgate within their classrooms. The ongoing interactions among faculty, industry scientists, and government officials and researchers create a well-spring for crafting new ideas that otherwise might not emerge within the isolated environments of each party.

Let me now turn to another issue that I would like to discuss. Our world has changed dramatically over the last several decades. To paraphrase Thomas Freedman, the world of research is indeed becoming flatter, and the world's scientific talent is becoming more evenly distributed. The position that the U.S. held in scientific and technical research has further given way to the rising status of research programs originating in other countries. Consider that as recently as 1995, articles with U.S. authors accounted for about 50% of the citations in all of the world's science and engineering articles in technical journals. Yet just 10 years later, that percentage declined to just above 40%. Further reflecting this trend is the fact that fully 1/3 of all such science and engineering articles in 2005 - with a U.S. author - included a non-U.S. co-author.

Even within this Country, an increasingly larger percentage of the scientists and engineers at the heart of U.S. research programs are non-U.S. citizens. This is not surprising since, according to the NSF, more than half of all U.S. doctorates in engineering, mathematics, computer sciences, and physics in 2005 were earned by foreign born students.

I imagine that this characterization of the research community can appear disconcerting and alarming to those entrusted with developing domestic policies to advance the competitiveness of America. However, let me suggest that the globalization trend and the goals of this subcommittee are not necessarily at odds with each other.

If you think that this statement seems odd, then you share a similar feeling to that of Dr. Albert Einstein who famously declared his frustration in understanding another seemingly contradiction of reality—specifically, the subject of quantum mechanics. To understand quantum mechanics, you must first suspend your beliefs developed over a lifetime of observing things as existing in one specific state at a given time. Quantum Mechanics, which is the basis for much of the world's greatest inventions and scientific insights, is based on the reality that matter can in fact exist in multiple states at the same time. And, by analogy, the same can be true of research globalization and domestic scientific development. Adopting policies or investing in initiatives to enhance collaboration and sharing of U.S. research capabilities with others around the globe will improve the ability of U.S. scientists and technologists to compete in the global playing field. IN fact, without a U.S. research community that is well-connected internationally, the capabilities of this country may become marginalized and second-rate.

Let me conclude by suggesting that our country has been, and will continue to be well-served by the vigorous funding of a broad array of federal programs that promote scientific endeavors, such as those supported by the NSF, the Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, etc. Such efforts should be focused on achieving a critical mass of world-preeminent researchers, a vibrant and innovative economic infrastructure, and the means to sustain national security and the well being of all American citizens. Let me add, however, my belief that programs that leverage the collaboration of industry, academic, and government research assets will offer a far richer set of benefits and should be a principal focus of your policy and funding considerations.

Thank you for your attention. That concludes my prepared remarks. I'd be happy to address any of your questions.

Written Testimony of the American Psychological Association
Steven Breckler, PhD, Executive Director for Science

Submitted April 4, 2008 to the
United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Alan Mollohan, Chairman

Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations for the National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Department of Justice

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The American Psychological Association (APA), a scientific and professional organization of more than 148,000 psychologists and affiliates, is pleased to submit testimony for the record. Because our behavioral scientists play vital roles within the **National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) within the Department of Justice (DOJ)**, APA will address the proposed FY09 research budgets for each of these agencies:

- **APA recommends that the Subcommittee support the President's FY09 request of $6.85 billion for NSF.**
- **APA requests that the Subcommittee provide $18.3 billion for NASA's Vision for Space Exploration program, $671 million for NASA Advanced Capabilities (which houses the Human Research Program), and $594 million for NASA Aeronautics.**
- **APA urges the Subcommittee to reverse the trend of budgetary neglect for NIJ (within DOJ) by providing $50 million in FY 2009 for NIJ programs.**

National Science Foundation

Core Psychological Research at NSF

NSF is the only federal agency whose primary mission is to support basic research and education in math, engineering and science – including the *behavioral and social sciences*. NSF's investment in basic research across these disciplines has allowed for extraordinary scientific and technological progress, ensuring continued economic growth, improvements in the design, implementation and evaluation of public education, strengthened national security, and the generation of cutting edge new knowledge.

APA supports the Administration request of $6.85 billion for NSF in FY09, and urges Congress to implement a doubling of the NSF budget over the next ten years. This is consistent with Administration and Congressional plans to invest substantially in federal science agencies with the capacity to stimulate global competitiveness and innovation. Within the overall NSF budget, APA supports a strong investment in psychological research throughout the research and education directorates foundation-wide, in order to address critical national challenges with an understanding of human behavior at their core. The America COMPETES Act specifically noted the importance of funding the social sciences and this must be reflected in an increase for NSF's

behavioral and social science research portfolio comparable to proposed increases for other sciences at NSF.

Although psychologists receive funding from diverse programs within NSF, most core psychological research is supported by the **Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)**, with its focus on the variables that determine human behavior across all ages, affect interactions among individuals and groups, and decide how social and economic systems develop and change. In addition to core behavioral research in cognitive neuroscience, human cognition and perception, learning and development, and social psychology, SBE also will continue to support the development of science metrics through its **Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP)** research program. Funding SciSIP research is fundamental to identifying processes by which investments in research are transformed into social and economic outcomes, and providing a more effective evaluation of the "return" on scientific investments.

The ***Biological Sciences Directorate*** at NSF also provides support for research psychologists who ask questions about the very principles and mechanisms that govern life at the level of the genome and cell, or at the level of a whole individual, family or species. In previous testimony, APA has expressed concern about diminishing support for key behavioral research programs within this Directorate, most notably those focused on learning and cognition. NSF recognizes the importance of learning and cognition to many branches of science already, and supports Foundation-wide initiatives and individual research projects that seek to understand the neural or genetic mechanisms by which learning occurs, that use learning as an assay for the effects of environmental change on a biological system, that construct and evaluate artificial learning systems, that conceptualize the role of learning in biodiversity and evolution and that apply learning principles to education and workforce challenges.

However, we hope that NSF's focus on transformational science will continue to recognize that behavior links everything from molecular biology to ecology because in a sense behavior is the ultimate genetic phenotype. Animals behave to eat, defend and reproduce, so an understanding of how the molecular processes within and beyond the central nervous system lead to behavior and how behavior serves an adaptive function seems essential to integrating biology across levels. Within the field of animal behavior and cognition there are clear demonstrations that this integration is occurring. For example, individual differences in gene expression can now be linked to individual differences in memory, attention, decision making, individual adaptation and fitness. The opportunity for understanding individual differences is unprecedented.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Behavioral Research is Critical for Space Exploration and Air Safety

Over the last 20 years, the NASA research budget has gone down steadily, with space exploration expanding about the same rate. The result is an increasing gap in life sciences and human factors knowledge – knowled that is critical for successful missions and for improving both the safety and efficiency of our current and fut aerospace systems. Longer space missions place increasing demands on psychological health and performan space. Psychological scientists are meeting these challenges head on by extending the information managem capacity of individuals through computational systems - systems that can sense when the user is overloaded, determine what needs to be done next and automatically adapt. Such systems improve human decision-maki

and allow humans to function in extremely challenging environments, such as space flight. The need for sci based practical principles to enhance systems, interfaces, team dynamics, decision-making, training, and psychological health continues to grow, but with a diminishing research budget, NASA behavioral scientists equipped to take on this crucial task.

In 2005, Congress endorsed the Vision for Space Exploration (VSE) to send humans to the moon and then to Mars. An understanding of human performance in space is critical for VSE, and the ability to measure and p human performance through all mission phases enhances mission safety and mission success. APA urges N to prioritize life sciences and human aeronautics research and to restore its support for these programs to a le commensurate with other NASA programs.

In the NASA Authorization Act of 2005, Congress endorsed the VSE and authorized $18,686,300,000 for FY08. The actual allocation for FY08 shortchanged the agency by over $1 billion. At $17.6 billion, the President's FY09 budget request again shortchanges the agency and fails even to keep pace with inflation. APA requests that NASA's budget be at least $18.3 billion in order for the agency to succeed in moving forward with the VSE while also sustaining its non-Exploration missions.

Human Research Program

Over the past several years, support for programs in the life sciences has diminished significantly, despite a renewed commitment in 2005 to extend human presence in space, and an unprecedented interest in behavioral research. Now, what remains of the Human Research Program is budgeted at $152 million, an increase of just 3.4% over FY08. Human research must be securely and adequately funded and considered an integral component of space mission planning. A successful overall behavioral health program will require a broad perspective, multiple convergent research strategies, and a variety of settings, including space itself. *APA therefore requests that NASA's budget for Advanced Capabilities, which houses the Human Research Program, be increased to the FY08 level of $671 million.*

Aviation Safety

Aeronautics research (including human factors) has long been a cornerstone of NASA. APA applauds NASA Ames Research Center for its historic attention to human factors research but continued cuts to aeronautics programming and a recent reorganization of the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate threaten to dismantle this once world-class center for human factors research. The Aeronautics Research Mission has been re-oriented to emphasize disciplines such as aerodynamics over human performance and operational issues. Further, the agency's FY08 allocation diminished the spending power of the aeronautics program by 40% compared to 2004, forcing NASA centers to cut jobs and university grants in aeronautics research, especially in the area of human performance and aviation safety. NASA's continual underfunding of aeronautics research also poses a significant threat to the Next Generation's (NextGen) schedule and budget. *APA therefore recommends that Congress restore NASA's Aeronautics budget to at least the FY06 level of $594 million.*

Department of Justice – National Institute of Justice

Behavioral and social science research is also essential to improving the criminal justice system. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation arm of the Department of Justice. It funds research in a range of scientific disciplines, including behavioral and social science research aimed at identifying evidence-based solutions for reducing crime and increasing public safety. The Administration has proposed flat funding for NIJ in FY 2009 for a total of $34.7 million, equal to its FY 2008 level and a dramatic 32% decrease from the FY 2007 level of $54.3 million. *APA strongly urges the Committee to reverse this trend of budgetary neglect for NIJ and recommends providing $50 million in FY 2009 for NIJ programs.*

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