

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 2, 2016

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

We write in support of the Smart Manufacturing Leadership Coalition (SMLC) and their proposal to establish the Clean Energy Smart Manufacturing Innovation Institute (CESMII) for Advanced Sensors, Controls, Platforms, and Modeling for Manufacturing. This would be the third institute within the Administration's National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, would help create and retain American smart manufacturing jobs, and spur economic development in communities throughout the nation.

Together with national and local partners, SMLC is the lead applicant. SMLC is a nonprofit recognized for its leadership in Smart Manufacturing, forming collaborations to develop approaches, standards, platforms, and shared infrastructure around manufacturing intelligence and communications. CESMII would be a nonprofit, industry-led organization with headquarters in Los Angeles, California and Networked Regional Centers in California, Gulf Coast, Northeast, Pacific Northwest, and Southeast.

The goal of CESMII is to create an open smart manufacturing architecture platform that no single company could build by itself. Based on commonly used open source tools, this platform would work with existing systems while also providing access to the market by small and medium-sized companies or new entrants. The Networked Regional Centers would design, facilitate, and manage collaborative test beds focused on accelerating the development, testing, and adoption of smart manufacturing technologies.

SMLC's unique proposal takes a regional, nationally distributed approach to ensure that CESMII remains responsive to the changing market demands of industries across the country. The Networked Regional Centers would create a network of innovation that stretches from coast to coast, allowing each center to develop and learn from shared best practices, while utilizing existing expertise within each region.

The Pacific Northwest is uniquely suited to serve as a Networked Regional Center within the CESMII. First, the Pacific Northwest has a decades-long history in energy efficiency investments designed to support a low-cost power system and competitive business environment. Over the years, energy efficiency programs in the Pacific Northwest have created a rich ecosystem of companies, local governments, utilities, contractors, and organizations oriented toward advanced technologies, new applications, market testing, acceleration, and deployment.

Our engineering universities – Oregon State University, University of Washington, and Washington State University – play a vital role in industrial and manufacturing improvements. Under CESMII, these academic institutions would apply advanced research capabilities with state of the art facilities to conduct fundamental research and development objectives, such as improved wireless ruggedized sensors.

Finally, the states of Oregon and Washington have been successful in retaining a strong manufacturing industry, especially in the heavy metals, aerospace, food processing, and pulp and paper products sectors. These industries are institutionally aligned toward sustainability, data-driven solutions, and technology advancements.

The CESMII and its Networked Regional Centers, including the Pacific Northwest, would be a strong addition to the Administration’s National Network for Manufacturing Innovation Institutes. We urge you to give full and fair consideration to SMLC’s proposal to establish the Clean Energy Smart Manufacturing Innovation Institute.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



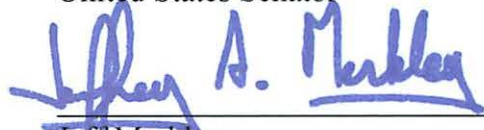
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



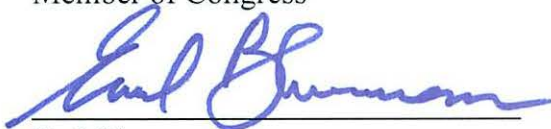
Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Peter DeFazio
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Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress




Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

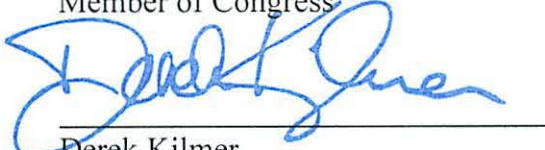


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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Dave Reichert
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Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress

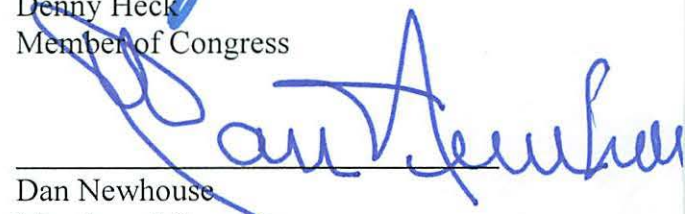

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