

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2014

Matt Erskine
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Erskine,

The combined Illinois and Iowa congressional delegations would like to take this opportunity to endorse the forthcoming application by the Illinois and Iowa region focused on the Quad Cities, to be designated as an Advanced Manufacturing Community by the Administration.

The Quad Cities region of Iowa and Illinois has long been a center of manufacturing innovation in the United States, with unique capabilities for defense and commercial manufacturing including the Rock Island Arsenal. The Quad Cities region is home to manufacturing giants such as John Deere, and over 900 other large, medium and small manufacturing enterprises.

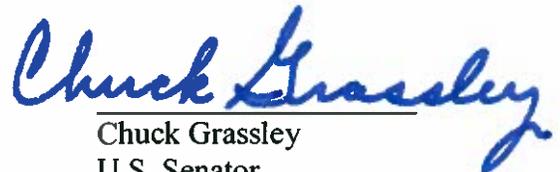
Building upon our foundation as a manufacturing leader, the Quad Cities region is in the process of implementing a Regional Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Hub which will focus on advanced Metals and Materials Manufacturing processes in order to support increased employment and export growth for the manufacturers in the Quad Cities region. Designation and branding as an Advanced Manufacturing Community would greatly reinforce the regions efforts to be recognized as a world class manufacturer.

We strongly endorse the Quad Cities' application for designation as an Advanced Manufacturing Community by the Administration and trust that you will give it the consideration it deserves.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
U.S. Senator



Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senator



Dick Durbin
U.S. Senator



Mark Kirk
U.S. Senator



Dave Loeb sack
Member of Congress



Bruce Braley
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress