



THOMAS COSTABILE, P.E.
Executive Director/CEO
Tel: 1.212.591.7150
Fax: 1.212.591.7739
costabilet@asme.org

The American Society
of Mechanical Engineers
Two Park Avenue
New York, NY
10016-5990 U.S.A.
www.asme.org

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ro Khanna
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Senator Young, and Representatives Khanna and Gallagher,

On behalf of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), I want to express my support for the Endless Frontier Act and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this legislation.

Founded in 1880, ASME has grown to include over 100,000 members. We are proud to have our members working tirelessly to strengthen both basic and applied research, and the resulting innovations. Here in the U.S., our Manufacturing Engineering Division members—over 11,000 strong—are directly contributing to American advances in this field.

As other developed nations increase investments in their research enterprise, the United States must also actively support both basic and applied research in an increasingly competitive marketplace. The Endless Frontier Act is an important step in securing America's economic future, as it seeks to create a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation at the National Science Foundation, which will allow for renewed focus and priority on basic and applied research, as well as commercialization. Not only will this better enable the American science, technology, and manufacturing communities to compete with their global competitors, but it will provide dividends to the American people as benefactors of this research.

Current national priorities that rely on a robust, domestic manufacturing sector—such as military readiness and energy efficiency—would see added benefits in an environment where manufacturing technologies advance more rapidly. Continued support of basic research in advanced manufacturing would also enable the United States to (1) compete more effectively in advanced manufacturing on a global scale, (2) develop a larger and more-skilled manufacturing workforce through training and education, and (3) foster an environment that encourages businesses to manufacture advanced products in the United States.

We applaud the goals of the Endless Frontier Act and the support it provides to the National Science Foundation and the American research enterprise. While basic and applied research across the enterprise is important, we urge Congress to expand basic research investments in advanced manufacturing. Maintaining focus on advanced manufacturing will help the U.S. remain globally competitive and domestically agile in the face of future disruptions such as global pandemics.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathryn Holmes, Director of ASME Government Relations at (202) 785-7390.

Sincerely,

Thomas Costabile, P.E.
Executive Director/CEO