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June 30, 2014

The Honorable Suzan DelBene
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative DelBene:

On behalf of the ASME Public Affairs and Outreach Sector, I would like to commend you for introducing H.R. 4629, the "Manufacturing Jobs for Veterans Act". This legislation would direct the Department of Labor to award \$50 million in grants over the next 5 years to establish pilot State Manufacturing Employment Programs to support on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and certification classes for eligible veterans through employers and labor-management organizations. We thank you for your bold leadership in championing this important legislation, and look forward to working with you to support its enactment.

Founded in 1880 as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME is a more than 130,000-member professional organization focused on technical, educational and research issues of the engineering and technology community. Since 1992, the ASME Committee on Pre-college Education has been actively developing and supporting programs and materials that strengthen STEM education in the K-12 classroom through its own initiatives and in partnerships with many other organizations.

America's manufacturing sector holds significant promise for expansion and job creation. U.S. manufacturers produce over 20 percent of all global manufacturing products, account for 12 percent of U.S. GDP and employ about 11 percent of the private sector workforce. U.S. manufacturers are also a critical part of our innovation enterprise, performing almost two-thirds of advanced stage research and development activities. The "Manufacturing Jobs for Veterans Act" is an important bill, which will not only help improve access to manufacturing jobs for U.S. veterans but will reward these patriots with another opportunity to serve our nation in the economically vital manufacturing industry.

Again, we applaud you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to support this critical legislation. If you, or your staff, have any questions or would desire more information, please contact Melissa Carl, Government Relations Manager, at 202/785-7380 or carlm@asme.org.

Sincerely,

William J. Wepfer, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President