PAUL MITCHELL
10TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

WASHINGTON OFFICE
211 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2106

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Calvert:

Thank you for your hard work on this year's FY21 Defense Appropriations bill and the difficult task of considering funding levels for the many critical programs for fiscal year 2021. My office is testifying in support of the following program increase request:

+$10,000,000 to RDT&E Defense-Wide, Line 49, PE 0603680D8Z "Defense-Wide Manufacturing Science and Technology Program for, "Program Increase - Hypersonic Thermal Management Research".

Through the utilization of Department of Defense-sponsored public-private partnerships in the form of the national manufacturing innovation institutes, the Pentagon has been able to meet a multitude of goals including the development of cost-saving manufacturing techniques, rapid deployment of improved technology to the warfighter, and strengthening our domestic industrial base.

An example of success for this program is "LIFT" in Detroit, Michigan. The institute focuses on advanced lightweight materials manufacturing technologies by connecting materials, processes and systems. LIFT has worked with the Department of Defense Manufacturing Technology (ManTech) Program to successfully develop systems and techniques that have made their way into use today, including delivering process improvements for manufacturing warships to the Navy and lightweight armor for Army ground vehicles.

LIFT's ecosystem is made up of a world-class industrial commons – manufacturing machinery and equipment coupled with world-class manufacturing modeling capability – and a network of experts in industry and academia from Michigan and across the country.

LIFT has invested in and developed a significant integrated computational materials engineering (ICME) hypersonic capability which with further government investment can aid the rapid design of advanced future generation hypersonic materials and manufacturing processes. Working across multiple industry sectors on manufacturing solutions will continue to yield success for both the defense and commercial sectors.

As you work on the House version of the FY21 Defense Appropriations bill, I strongly encourage you to maintain the strong investments your subcommittee has made so far in the manufacturing innovation institutes, specifically LIFT's work in the area of hypersonics. Please consider a Program Increase for "Hypersonics Thermal Management Research" for the Defense Wide Office of Manufacturing Science and Technology.

Thank you for considering my views and for your efforts to support Michigan and the men and women who defend our nation.

Sincerely,

PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress