

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1303

April 3, 2019

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Thornberry:

As you begin to develop the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY2020, I write to respectfully request that you include two proposals – MADE HERE and the Allied Nations Travel Modernization Act – in the text of the bill.

The Allied Nations Travel Modernization Act would recognize and encourage the work of our NATO allies who actively fund the required 2% of GDP for defense purposes as expected of NATO members. Specifically, this language would create an alternative pathway for admission into the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) for NATO countries that actually make the defense budget allocations as required. Countries utilizing this pathway also have to meet additional requirements, including demonstrating low overstay rates for visitors to the U.S. and having no elevated travel advisories from the State Department (elevated travel advisories can be an indicator of unrest or terrorism risk). Under current rules, citizens of nations such as Poland and Romania are ineligible to travel to the United States under VWP, despite their countries having close intelligence and defense relationships with the U.S. and posing low risk to our national security and the safety of U.S. citizens. I urge the inclusion of this provision so we can recognize this close relationship with our NATO allies.

MADE HERE would implement a recommendation included in the Strategy for American Leadership in Advanced Manufacturing released by the Administration last year. This report was produced as required under my National Manufacturing Strategy Act enacted into law in 2014, and is the first manufacturing strategy published thanks to my legislation. MADE HERE would authorize the Departments of Defense and Energy, as well as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to carry out a manufacturing cluster program that builds partnerships between educational institutions, the private and public sectors, and DOD service member and veteran programs with the goal of sustaining our defense industrial base. The 2018 Strategy developed by the Administration is the first national manufacturing strategy produced in the U.S. since the times of Alexander Hamilton. We should take advantage of the knowledge gathered in this report and take this opportunity to implement recommendations that would strengthen our defense capabilities long into the future.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sofya Leonova on my staff at 202-225-5701 or sofya.leonova@mail.house.gov. Thank you for your kind consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



DANIEL W. LIPINSKI
Member of Congress