

Written Testimony of Austin Bishop

Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

We are at a pivotal moment in American history that demands urgency, imagination, and national unity. The question before us is whether America can lead the world in cutting-edge production again; it is whether we choose to.

Reindustrialization is not about nostalgia or recreating a past economy but about building a dynamic, future-facing industrial base that strengthens national security, revives economic mobility for working Americans, and reclaims American leadership in critical sectors.

This is a non-partisan challenge and a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

Fragility of Globalized Supply Chains

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed a painful truth: our overreliance on globalized supply chains has left American families vulnerable and our economy brittle. Basic goods, from personal protective equipment to microchips, became scarce almost overnight. Moms in the Midwest couldn't get baby formula because the Suez Canal was blocked, an absurdity that everyone must admit reveals the massive weakness created by surrendering sovereignty over where and how things are produced.

Reliance on far-flung manufacturing hubs, particularly in Asia, has caused a profound loss of confidence in our system's resilience. We are all worse off in a world where the West cannot manufacture certain goods in abundance. That reality forces us to rely on the good graces of distant powers to meet our needs, weakens our militaries' ability to deter aggression or defend allies, and deprives millions of Americans in every State of stable, high-productivity employment in high-tech industries.

Moreover, this vulnerability was not accidental. Deindustrialization was a choice resulting from bad policy decisions and flawed ideologies that prioritized short-term cost savings over long-term national strength and discouraged investment in capital-intensive industries. Cheap labor abroad and foreign subsidization, combined with burdensome regulations and protracted permitting processes at home, hollowed out our domestic manufacturing base. We socialized the costs and privatized the gains, as entire cities were reduced to rusty shells of their former selves while the S&P 500 made record highs. We should remember the pandemic as a warning shot: we cannot entrust our prosperity to fragile, distant supply chains.

Hostility of the People's Republic of China and National Security Threats

Further compounding this challenge is the reality that the People's Republic of China, an increasingly hostile geopolitical rival, sits at the center of many global supply chains. Today, The United States depends heavily on China for critical minerals, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, ships, and advanced manufacturing inputs.

These supply chains could collapse overnight in the event of conflict or even heightened tensions. We must be clear-eyed: economic dependency is strategic vulnerability. If we cannot produce the essentials of modern life within our borders, we are not truly sovereign.

Onshoring critical industries is not simply an economic imperative but a national security mandate.

Reviving Technical and Skilled Labor: Rebuilding the Middle Class

Bringing manufacturing home is not about reliving the past; it is about forging a better future. The old industrial jobs of the 20th century were the foundation of the American middle class, providing millions with good wages, dignity, and upward mobility. Since manufacturing's share of GDP declined from 30% in the 1950s to just 11% today, we have witnessed the undeniable hollowing out of our middle class.

However, the manufacturing jobs of tomorrow will not look like the jobs of the past. They will be extensions of the advanced manufacturing jobs we already have here in America: highly skilled, technologically advanced careers working with robotics, precision manufacturing, AI-driven logistics, and more. Onshore companies will also need workers for sales, construction, management, and maintenance, representing millions of jobs, many of which do not require a four-year degree.

By investing in a modern industrial base, we can rebuild a middle class that is not only larger but better equipped for the demands of the 21st-century economy.

Innovation Through Onshoring: Reclaiming American Leadership

Finally, onshoring manufacturing will ignite innovation across our economy. Historically, industrial leadership has been inseparable from technological leadership. When we manufacture, we invent. When we lose production capabilities, we lose the ability to innovate. Today, America lags in critical manufacturing R&D areas, from battery production to advanced materials to microfabrication.

By bringing industry back home, we will secure our supply chains and unlock new frontiers of research, entrepreneurship, and invention. The average American will benefit from more

reliable access to goods and a healthier, more dynamic economy where workers share more directly in the nation's growth and prosperity.

Conclusion

Reindustrializing America is not about going backward; it is about moving forward.

It is about making America safer, more prosperous, and more unified.

It is about empowering the next generation of American workers with the tools to build a better future. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to your questions.