

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade  
Hearing on “Our Nation of Builders: Manufacturing in America”  
February 14, 2013**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Thank you, Chairman Terry, for calling today’s hearing, “Our Nation of Builders: Manufacturing in America.” I am also encouraged by your plan to use the committee’s jurisdiction to further examine manufacturing this Congress.

When Henry Ford built his first “horseless carriage” plant in my home state, Michigan began its journey as the face of American automobile manufacturing. We later supplied our military with vehicles during times of war and filled the burgeoning consumer demand that followed.

Michigan’s economy is now far more diversified, but manufacturing - and not just auto-related manufacturing - is still extremely important to the state’s economy, producing \$70 billion in output in 2011, and accounting for 16 percent of our state GDP. In my district alone, we have over 660 manufacturers who employ 10 or more workers, accounting for almost 50,000 jobs. Statewide, the manufacturing industry directly employs over a half million Michiganders, and each of those jobs produces others upstream and downstream, in Michigan and elsewhere.

According to University of Michigan, professor and American Enterprise Institute Scholar Dr. Mark Perry, the top 500 publicly traded U.S. manufacturers had \$6.01 trillion in revenue last year and would have been the world’s third largest economy if they were their own country. Our manufacturing sector has been resilient and is one of the few bright spots in our economic recovery that has been adding jobs. The benefits of building products in the U.S. are clear: higher average wages, increased innovation, and greater economic multiplier effects for the entire economy. There are many challenges facing American manufacturers today, but I am still confident manufacturing can lead the way. Anyone who came by our Manufacturing Showcase this morning and saw a sample of some of the broad range of products made in our members’ districts – including the medical devices made by Stryker in my district – know our manufacturers still define what is “world-class.”

I am pleased we have such an excellent panel of witnesses that represent the voices of our constituents. I am anxious to hear how they assess our current economic situation and what policies they believe need to be addressed to improve our shared goal of expanding manufacturing.

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