

**Testimony of Congressman Tom Reed
New York, 23rd Congressional District**

**House Science Committee, Subcommittee on Research & Technology
December 12, 2013**

Good morning, Chairman Bucshon, Ranking Member Lipinski, and members of the Committee. I would like to thank you for bringing this legislation before the Committee today. I am proud to have introduced this legislation, *The Revitalize American Manufacturing Innovation (RAMI) Act*, with my colleague Congressman Joe Kennedy from Massachusetts, a Member of this Committee as well as Senators Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Roy Blunt of Missouri.

My district is home to a wide variety of manufacturers from Lockheed Martin and Dresser-Rand who work with our nation's military to Corning Incorporated, Cummins and small and medium size firms stretched across the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes Region of New York State. These manufacturers continue to make a comeback in the manufacturing sector and grow our nation's high-skilled workforce. Knocking down barriers to growth, cutting that red tape and allowing these businesses do their jobs is the best way to support a sector that employs more than 11 million Americans. One way we can spur that growth is through public-private partnerships outlined in the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act that I look forward to discussing with you today.

I recently visited Lufkin-RMT in Wellsville, NY to hear about their recent expansion into a state-of-the-art 55,000 square foot facility. They are also making strides locally in partnering with area colleges to tackle workforce issues from the bottom up. On the other side of my district I have seen great partnerships such as that between G.W. Lisk and Finger Lakes Community College who are working together to train the next generation of manufacturing workers. It's manufacturer's like Lufkin-RMT and G.W. Lisk that truly see the long-term benefit of creating manufacturing hubs and public-private partnerships, like those created under the RAMI Act.

Regrettably we continue to see many new ideas and technologies coming out of local universities and community colleges that are not able to make the jump to commercialization in domestic factories. The *Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation (RAMI) Act of 2013*, H.R. 2996, will help rebuild our manufacturing capacity and create an environment where the private sector will invest in the strengths of our nation and American manufacturing will grow.

We have seen how this concept can work in the ongoing success of the Youngstown, Ohio National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute. I have been working with my friend from Ohio, Congressman Tim Ryan, as leaders of the House Manufacturing Caucus together to broadcast the accomplishments that are happening every day in Youngstown and projecting how the next three centers and those hopefully to follow can change the way American manufacturing evolves. Youngstown is proving that if we coordinate efforts at the federal and local level with our manufacturer's and higher education institutions, we can continue to build upon the American manufacturing renaissance. I look forward to hearing from the panelists today, both

GE and Moog, two great New York companies, who have been involved in the Youngstown manufacturing hub.

Encouraging manufacturing and technology innovation through coordinating resources will commercialize research and development into manufactured products and train an advanced manufacturing workforce to support our job-creating manufacturers. Having a network of manufacturing institutes is what we need here in America to 'Make it here, sell it there. *The Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act* will add more manufacturing institutes to bolster private-sector job creation and advance our competitive edge. We'll engage the best and the brightest minds in manufacturing, academia and business to move American manufacturing forward.

The *RAMI Act* in summary will:

- Establish a Network for Manufacturing Innovation to improve the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing and increase domestic production;
- Build public-private partnerships through Centers for Manufacturing Innovation among higher education, community colleges as well as small and large manufacturer's to promote best practices and address advanced manufacturing challenges; and,
- Comprehensively address our skills gap by producing a next generation talent pool requiring skilled production workers and engineers by focusing on education, workforce training, research and development, and commercialization.
- The bill will be fully paid for, with offsets, as I feel strongly about getting the U.S. out of the current debt crisis we find ourselves in. Creating jobs and spurring innovation through companies like those represented in the room today will also help in that effort.
- The network would be funded, as currently written, by a one-time \$600 million investment in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). It would require support from non-government resources and would prohibit federal financial assistance for any institute beyond a seven year period.
- Institutes will be selected for participation and funding through a competitive, merit review process run by the Secretary of Commerce and NIST.
- The bill is supported by the National Association of Manufacturer's, Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, SEMI, Motor Equipment Manufacturers Association, AFL-CIO, Precision Machined Products Association as well as the One Voice / National Tooling & Machining Association/Precision Metal forming Association Coalition.