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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-3011

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER &
PROJECTION FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TACTICAL AIR & LAND FORCES

HOUSE SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS &
OVERSIGHT, CHAIR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

May 6, 2019

The Honorable Michael D. Griffin
Under Secretary of Defense
Research and Engineering
3030 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3030

Dear Under Secretary Griffin,

New Jersey leads the nation in advanced manufacturing research, and several research and teaching institutions in New Jersey have longstanding and productive research partnerships with the Department of Defense. Section 229 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 directed the Department of Defense to enhance partnerships between its research laboratories and academic institutions for the further development of advanced manufacturing techniques in support of the defense industrial base.

We urge you to use authorities under 10 USC 2368 to facilitate public-private partnerships and expand and enhance cooperative agreements on advanced manufacturing with Rutgers University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Rowan University, Fairleigh Dickinson University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. The latter's Additive Manufacturing Lab is already working with Picatinny Arsenal to develop critical additive manufacturing capabilities. Rutgers, Stevens, Rowan and Fairleigh Dickinson are together making ground-breaking advances and support the development of the next generation of our manufacturing workforce.

The Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center at Picatinny Arsenal uses additive manufacturing technology to rapidly design, prototype, and produce armaments. The Printed Electronics Energetics Materials and Sensors (PEEMS) facility at Picatinny is the Army's most advanced lab for the design, development, fabrication, testing, and integration of advanced materials and additive manufacturing techniques specifically for munitions, armaments, and equipment for our soldiers. For example, engineers at Picatinny are using additive manufacturing to develop the next generation hand grenade to give our soldiers a qualitative edge, and electronics and energetics to improve Long Range Precision Fires – two of the Army's top modernization priorities. Picatinny's engineers are also testing additive manufacturing to enable the Army to immediately replace critically damaged or lost equipment in the field. We urge you to use the authority provided in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 to further encourage such partnerships with Picatinny Arsenal and other defense laboratories nationwide.

We look forward to hearing from you on how the Department of Defense is facilitating the development of advanced manufacturing techniques in support of the defense industrial base.

Sincerely,



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Ellen M. Lord
Under Secretary of Defense
Acquisition and Sustainment