

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 23, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inouye and Senator Cochran:

As the committee begins its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2011 Defense Appropriations Bill, we are writing to request continued support for a Department of Defense (DOD) manufacturing research and development initiative called the Industrial Base Innovation Fund. We believe this request will support the needs of our men and women in uniform while also strengthening the defense industrial base, creating and preserving manufacturing and engineering jobs, and enhancing our national economic competitiveness.

As you are well aware, advanced weapons systems are increasingly costly to develop, field, and sustain. A February 2006 report by the Defense Science Board (DSB) regarding the DOD's Manufacturing Technology Program points out that manufacturing technology plays a critical role in addressing development, acquisition, and sustainment problems associated with these programs.

In its report, the DSB recommended increased funding for the Manufacturing Technology Program over a 5-year period to a level of "one percent of the RDT&E budget," to align DOD with the level of manufacturing technology investments in the early 1980s. The Fiscal Year 2011 budget request for Manufacturing Technology programs in DOD represents only 0.25% of the requested RDT&E budget. The President's request for Manufacturing Technology programs across DOD for fiscal year 2011 is \$188 million, falling well short of the DSB goal, and also \$13 million below the fiscal year 2010 requested level.

We are requesting funding for a merit-based, competitive initiative to address the shortfall in DOD funding of manufacturing research and development. It is anticipated that this initiative will be part of the Senate Armed Services Committee-reported version of the Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act, as it has been in previous years.

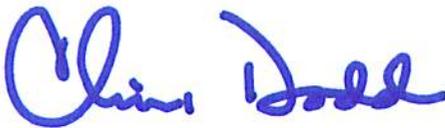
We request \$30.0 million in Defense-wide Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (Line 245, PE#0708011S) to continue the Industrial Base Innovation Fund (IBIF) established and funded in previous defense authorization and appropriations acts. This effort supports the DOD's ability to address specific shortfalls in the defense industrial base to meet short-term surge manufacturing requirements. The surge production requirements of current operations have stressed the industrial base and lead to intolerable wait times for the delivery of some much needed materiel to the battlefield. This IBIF focuses on the development of advanced

manufacturing technologies that can reduce the time required to produce high demand items such as body and vehicle armor, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) jammers, and Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles during surges in military operations and to preserve or expand diminishing critical defense industrial base capabilities. The previous funding provided by your committee for this project is being executed by the Defense Logistics Agency in coordination with the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Industrial Policy, and has been invested in competitively awarded research on technologies to address critical surge production and defense manufacturing needs such as low cost titanium production, titanium and ceramic armor production, environmentally improved welding processes, optical lens manufacturing capability, and improved lithium battery production. Past IBIF investments have also established and increased the capacity of domestic sources for transparent armor material used on MRAPs and High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs), optics for night vision equipment, and fiber optics for use on military helicopters.

We certify that neither we nor our immediate family have a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that we have requested in the Fiscal Year 2011 Defense Appropriations bill and report, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Dodd



Carl Levin



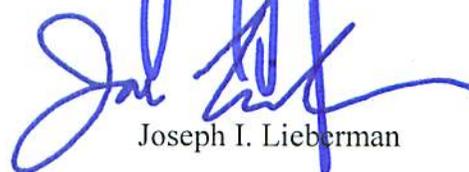
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Jeff Bingaman



Olympia J. Snowe



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*Jim Webb*

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