Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2014

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker,

Envision significant job creation in an area that's home to 22.6 million people, 60 percent of California's population. Imagine innovative training, products and technology emerging from a sector that spans four counties and 29 Congressional Districts. Picture a new regional manufacturing network that can help transform Southern California's aerospace and defense industry into a foundry for innovation without equal in the United States.

Those are the aims of the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership for Southern California (AMP SoCal), a four-county consortium made up of industry, local and regional government, economic development organizations, community colleges, universities, workforce investment boards and philanthropy. Led by the City of Los Angeles and the USC Center for Economic Development, AMP SoCal is applying for the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) designation from the Department of Commerce.

*We join with colleagues in the neighboring counties of Orange, San Diego, and Ventura to support the AMP SoCal application, which all of us see as the beginning of a potential renaissance for our aerospace and defense industry through innovation and partnership across sectors.*

**Here are four reasons why this project can benefit the entire Southern California region**:

- *More than 30 partners in the consortium have committed to goals that would create "next generation" advanced manufacturing jobs* while making strategic investments in the industrial ecosystem that supports our aerospace and defense industry.
- The project will not only improve the competitiveness of the industry, it will create a new industry-wide system designed to encourage and reward innovation. AMP SoCal will support an accessible smart manufacturing platform; offer technical assistance to adopt advanced manufacturing technologies and increase exports; provide cutting-edge education and workforce training for high-skilled occupations; develop new infrastructure (smart/green buildings) for manufacturing, research and development; and, recruit veterans, the unemployed and young adults for manufacturing training programs.
- *The support of this proposal goes well beyond District lines.* In fact, the vast majority of Southern Californian Representatives believe an IMCP designation will frame the region's narrative

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emphatically to the rest of the world. The message: Southern California is the best place to invest in advanced manufacturing. It's significant that Orange, San Diego, and Ventura Counties are partners in the plan, indicating the breadth – and reach -of the plan's economic impact.

- *AMP So Cal is directly supported by LA n Sync, an initiative of 41 community institutions.* LA n Sync provides cross-sector networking and significant philanthropic engagement – so far, providing funding for grantwriting and development on the project as well as convening an historic, first-time meeting of all key leaders who influence the aerospace and defense industry.

Southern California's private, public, and philanthropic leaders are ready to leverage an IMCP designation to create significant new growth in aerospace and defense, an industry our region helped to pioneer. We ask that you give this application thorough consideration.

Sincerely,

TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

SCOTT H. PETERS
Member of Congress

ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

LORETTA SANCHEZ
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KAREN BASS
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