



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY

Opening Statement

Chairman Conor Lamb (D-PA)
Subcommittee on Energy

Joint Subcommittee Hearing:
Revitalizing American Leadership in Advanced Manufacturing
March 26, 2019

Good morning and thank you all for being here. I am pleased we're holding a hearing this morning about an industry critical to our country and especially in Pennsylvania: manufacturing. Our factories built the Golden Gate Bridge, the Hoover Dam, and powered the Allied Forces in World War II. And as some of you may know, I am fortunate to also serve as Chairman of the Steel Caucus – for which I'll throw a quick plug - our annual State of Steel Hearing will be held tomorrow morning and you all are welcome to attend.

More than half a million Pennsylvanians work in manufacturing; the sector has an economic impact of \$87 billion in my home state alone. But the industry is changing. Our country lost over 5 million manufacturing jobs between 2000 and 2014. It is an absolute imperative that we renew our leadership in this industry – we cannot sacrifice these future opportunities for rising generations of American workers.

I believe the Manufacturing USA Institutes play a key role to that end. These Institutes are essential in helping our nation maintain a robust manufacturing base in forward-looking sectors such as biotechnology, chemical and materials processing, and robotics. These fourteen Institutes help form a national network that convenes industrial, academic, and federal partners invested in continuing U.S. leadership in advanced manufacturing.

Take, for example, the new partnership in my district between Robert Morris University and the America Makes Institute. Through a collaboration with America Makes, RMU just opened a 3D Printing and Additive Manufacturing Laboratory last month, which will serve as both a research and teaching facility and launch a manufacturing engineering certificate program to help meet our region's workforce needs in this growing field. This is just one example of the many ways in which Manufacturing USA brings together a diverse set of partners to revitalize manufacturing in America.

The research and work done by the five institutes sponsored by the Department of Energy, will help develop technologies that can increase the energy efficiency of manufacturing processes and reduce their environmental impacts. This, in turn, could lower electricity bills for manufacturers and present new economic opportunities for the U.S. to lead the way in developing novel manufacturing processes and advanced materials.

This work extends across many programs in DOE – in fact, just last week, ARPA-E announced thirty-six million dollars in awards to develop high-temperature, high-pressure heat exchangers, essential to increasing the energy efficiency of a variety of applications involving thermal energy, such as manufacturing and waste heat recovery.

The institutes we are highlighting today are impressive. They are clearly working to leverage private investment and develop new technologies, and they play a key role in not just advancing science but strengthening our economy. Accordingly, I believe our committee needs to explore bolstering this critical program.

As Mr. Molnar's testimony highlights, industry will create the potential for 3.5 million manufacturing jobs coming in the next decade, and more than half will go unfilled due to the shortage of skilled workers. If that potential lost opportunity, coupled with the millions of previously lost manufacturing jobs, is not a clarion call for dramatically increasing our investments and partnerships, I don't know what is.

Investments like these are essential to developing technologies that can help us lead the world in the evolving manufacturing industry for the years to come. I look forward to hearing more about these institutes and the recommendations of this excellent panel of witnesses assembled here today.

Thank you and I yield back.