

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

**Ranking Member Dan Lipinski (D-IL)**

House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Subcommittee on Research and Technology

*Examining Federal Advanced Manufacturing Programs*

September 10, 2013

Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling this hearing to examine Federal advanced manufacturing programs and legislation introduced by the Ranking Member of the full Committee. I'd also like to thank the witnesses for being here this morning. Today's hearing is an important follow-up to the hearing we held in July on my bipartisan American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act. I'm glad that we are taking an in-depth look at these issues as we seek to identify the best Federal policies for promoting manufacturing and job creation. Despite all the attention being focused on other important issues right now, the American people are still focused on the fact that more must be done to encourage the creation of good-paying jobs in our country.

A vibrant manufacturing sector is critical for America's economic growth and the success of the middle class. Unfortunately, since the 1970s we have seen a less vibrant manufacturing sector with the number of manufacturing jobs shrinking, from 20 million in 1979 to fewer than 12 million today. The recent recession hit workers in the manufacturing sector especially hard and contributed to the stagnation of middle-class wages. In addition, our trade deficit in advanced technology products is growing & China is now the world's biggest exporter of high-tech goods.

But, there has been some good news recently, with American manufacturing showing signs of a comeback. In fact, a report last week by the Institute for Supply Management found that economic activity in the manufacturing sector expanded for the third consecutive month. Despite these positive signs challenges remain.

Our position as the global leader in technology is being threatened as developing countries build up their capabilities to become not only the world's assembly line, but also the creator of new and innovative technologies. They are investing heavily in manufacturing and innovation and they are doing so in a much more comprehensive way than the U.S.

Right now, the Federal government has countless departments, agencies, programs, and policies that affect manufacturing, from our tax code and energy policies to programs related to research and development and education and workforce, but these efforts are not well coordinated.

Through the legislation I introduced earlier this year, an interagency committee would conduct a comprehensive analysis of the U.S. manufacturing sector, examining the impact that government policies are having on manufacturing and how we can be more efficient and effective. By improving the coordination of various government agencies and most importantly, coordination with the private sector, we can develop concrete goals and objectives, and implement policies that create the best condition for American manufacturers to thrive.

Today we are going to focus largely on the advanced manufacturing activities of NIST and the programs and activities proposed in H.R. 1421. Although NIST is a relatively small agency, it is an extremely important player in Federal efforts to spur manufacturing, innovation, and economic prosperity. For more than 100 years, NIST has supported the competitiveness of U.S. industry by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology. Their work in biomanufacturing, nanomanufacturing, and smart manufacturing will provide the foundation for future U.S. market growth, competitiveness, and the creation and retention of high skill, well-paying jobs.

Furthermore, NIST's broad and deep technical expertise, as well as its ability to serve as a bridge to U.S. businesses, is unparalleled.

This connection to industry is essential and I strongly believe we cannot move American manufacturing forward without building bridges between the public and private sectors. H.R. 1421 encourages the formation of public-private partnerships and the development of technology roadmaps to address the research needs of industry. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about how the Federal government can help promote deep and long-lasting public-private sector collaboration in manufacturing. I am also interested in learning more about how the Federal government can help our small and medium-sized manufacturers become more competitive in the global marketplace.

Mr. Chairman, we must adopt smart policies that encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, efficiency, and investment in American manufacturing. American manufacturing equals American jobs and a strong economy and we simply can't afford to lose our capacity to manufacture the breakthrough technologies and products of tomorrow. I look forward to working with you to advance legislation on this important topic.