

May 25, 2012

Co-Chairmen:
Timothy B. Dining
President & CEO
Greenerd Press & Machine Company, Inc.

Ronald Mager
President & CEO
Machinery Systems, Inc.

1st Vice Chairman & Treasurer:
R. Stephen Flynn
President
Optical Gaging Products, Inc.

2nd Vice Chairman:
Kevin Kilgallen
President
Mid Atlantic Machinery, Inc.

Secretary:
Brian J. Papke
President
Mazak Corporation

Directors:
David Burns
President & COO
The Ex-One Company, LLC

Ronald S. Karaisz
President
KAR Enterprises, Inc.

Lee B. Morris
CEO & Chairman
The Morris Group

Michael Powell
President
Master WorkHolding, Inc.

Carl Reed
President & C.E.O.
Abbott Workholding Products

Jerry Rex
President
Morris South, LLC, A Morris Group
Company

Larry G. Schwartz
Chief Strategies Officer
Okuma America Corporation

Richard L. Simons
President & CEO
Hardinge Inc.

Steven R. Stokey
Executive Vice President & Owner
Allied Machine & Engineering Corp.

Ex-Officio:
Eugene R. Haffely, Jr. P.E.
ATW Automation, A Division of ATS
Automation Tooling Systems

Daniel D. Janka
President, MAG Global
MAG IAS, LLC

Douglas K. Woods
President
AMT – The Association For Manufacturing
Technology

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
The U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Foxx:

On behalf of AMT – The Association For Manufacturing Technology, I want to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the Workforce Investment Improvement Act of 2012 (H.R. 4297).

AMT represents U.S.-based manufacturing technology producers and distributors. Our members provide the tools that enable production of all manufactured goods. The vast majority of them are small businesses facing an uncertain future. One of the most difficult challenges they face is finding workers with the skills necessary for today's high-tech manufacturing facilities. They know the workers are out there, but many of them lack the resources of larger companies to find and train them.

AMT has a plan called the "[Manufacturing Mandate](#)" which advocates for a national policy that emphasizes the importance of building a 21st century workforce. At AMT, we call it a "Smartforce." Programs like the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) can help, but only if they are run efficiently and provide real value to all stakeholders. That is why AMT appreciates your efforts to reauthorize and improve the WIA. H.R. 4297 provides an improved framework for ensuring the maximum benefit is derived from WIA funds by consolidating programs and increasing the role of businesses.

My staff welcomes the opportunity to work with you and your staff on this legislation to build and strengthen the Smartforce. I am encouraged that you recognize that leadership from our federal government is necessary to achieve this goal.

Best regards,



Douglas K. Woods
President