

MARK S. CRITZ  
12TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS



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June 5, 2012

Dr. Jennifer Fielding  
Air Force Research Laboratory  
Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, AFRL/RX  
Wright Patterson AFB, OH 45433-7801

Dear Dr. Fielding:

I would like to offer my support for the proposal being submitted by the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining (NCDMM) in response to the Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute Pilot Program. The NCDMM is an ideal candidate to lead this type of program and would be a worthy recipient of this funding. I am confident that a pilot program under its management would be very successful both regionally and as a national asset.

The techbelt of western Pennsylvania, northeast Ohio, and West Virginia has a rich history in manufacturing and innovation. It is home to hundreds of small and medium manufacturing companies which are complimented by some of the best research institutions in the world. The collaborative fabric of the region will serve as a benchmark for additional institutes nationwide.

The NCDMM model is built upon technology collaboration and is improving productivity within the Department of Defense industrial base through technology transition. This transition includes targeted training to enable our workforce and has benefited manufacturers in my district and throughout the nation.

I have been pleased with the performance of the NCDMM over the past nine years and its contributions to the U.S. industrial base. I highly recommend that the Air Force Research Laboratory give serious consideration to this proposal.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Chief of Staff, Matthew Mazonkey, at (202) 225-2065.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Critz', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark S. Critz  
Member of Congress