



RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY: POWERING A MANUFACTURING RENAISSANCE

Manufacturers in the United States have created an innovation engine that has delivered new technologies and processes that have brought us energy independence, new lifesaving medicines and medical devices, more efficient automobiles and countless other everyday products that make lives better and secure our nation's global leadership position in manufacturing.

Powering this innovation engine are investments in new technologies and processes. Manufacturers in the United States perform more than three-quarters of all private-sector research and development (R&D) in the nation. Manufacturing has been awarded more patents than any other industry. Manufacturers are now driving the digital economy in the 21st century.

However, this current global leadership position is not guaranteed. Forward-looking federal policies that prioritize investment and innovation are needed to drive continued growth and job creation. Other nations are eager to take our place and have created pro-investment environments that include more competitive tax codes than in the United States.



A RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY AGENDA FOR 2016 AND BEYOND MUST:

- ✓ Adopt policies that will attract and retain investment in activities that drive innovation;
- ✓ Include cybersecurity policies that draw on the best industry practices; and
- ✓ Vigorously protect all forms of manufacturers' intellectual property;
- ✓ Foster the growth of connected technology across all manufacturing industry segments.

ACTIONS FOR LEADERS TO TAKE:

- Enhance the R&D incentive so that manufacturers can continue to innovate successfully across all industrial sectors.
- Ensure strong intellectual property protections as international trade agreements are negotiated.
- Update current law to increase the ability of manufacturers to defend themselves against trade secret and intellectual property theft.
- Enact policies that reduce the amount of abusive patent lawsuits while respecting the intellectual property rights of all industry segments.
- Maintain a strong mechanism for the public and private sector to share real-time cyberthreat information that includes liability protections.
- Modernize our nation's communications laws to reduce unnecessary regulations and drive investment in our nation's information and communications technology infrastructure.



“Unnecessary and unfettered government overreach will prevent us from unleashing the potential of new manufacturing innovation powered by Big Data and the cloud. There is so much potential, especially from the Internet of Things and all the valuable data it is creating for manufacturers and fueling their ability to grow and serve their customers and consumers. The IoT will truly change everything.”

— Thomas J. Riordan, *President and CEO, Neenah Enterprises, Inc. and NAM Small and Medium Manufacturers Group Chair*