

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2631

To improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by
designating and supporting manufacturing communities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2019

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. RYAN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mrs. BUSTOS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Make It In America
5 Manufacturing Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY SUPPORT
9 PROGRAM.—The term “Manufacturing Community

1 Support Program” means the program established
2 under section 3(a).

3 (2) PARTICIPATING AGENCY.—The term “par-
4 ticipating agency” means a Federal agency that
5 elects to participate in the Manufacturing Commu-
6 nity Support Program.

7 (3) PARTICIPATING PROGRAM.—The term “par-
8 ticipating program” means a program identified by
9 a participating agency under section 3(c)(1)(C).

10 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Commerce.

12 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM TO DESIGNATE AND SUPPORT MANUFAC-**
13 **TURING COMMUNITIES.**

14 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall es-
15 tablish a program to improve the competitiveness of
16 United States manufacturing—

17 (1) by designating consortiums as manufac-
18 turing communities under subsection (b); and

19 (2) by supporting manufacturing communities,
20 as so designated, under subsection (c).

21 (b) DESIGNATION OF MANUFACTURING COMMU-
22 NITIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
24 graph (7), for purposes of the Manufacturing Com-
25 munity Support Program, the Secretary shall des-

1 designate eligible consortiums as manufacturing com-
2 munities through a competitive process.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIUMS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium
5 is a consortium that—

6 (i) represents a region defined by the
7 consortium in accordance with subpara-
8 graph (B);

9 (ii) includes at least one—

10 (I) institution of higher edu-
11 cation;

12 (II) private sector entity; and

13 (III) government entity;

14 (iii) may include one or more—

15 (I) private sector partners;

16 (II) institutions of higher edu-
17 cation;

18 (III) government entities;

19 (IV) economic development and
20 other community and labor groups;

21 (V) financial institutions; or

22 (VI) utilities; and

23 (iv) has, as a lead applicant—

24 (I) a district organization (as de-
25 fined in section 300.3 of title 13,

1 Code of Federal Regulations, or suc-
2 cessor regulation);

3 (II) an Indian tribe (as defined
4 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
5 mination and Education Assistance
6 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)) or a consor-
7 tium of Indian tribes;

8 (III) a State or a political sub-
9 division of a State, including a special
10 purpose unit of a State or local gov-
11 ernment engaged in economic or in-
12 frastructure development activities, or
13 a consortium of political subdivisions;

14 (IV) an institution of higher edu-
15 cation or a consortium of institutions
16 of higher education; or

17 (V) a public or private nonprofit
18 organization or association that has
19 an application that is supported by a
20 State, a political subdivision of a
21 State, or a native community.

22 (B) REGIONS.—Subject to approval by the
23 Secretary, a consortium may define the region
24 that it represents if the region—

1 (i) is large enough to contain critical
2 elements of the key technologies or supply
3 chain prioritized by the consortium; and

4 (ii) is small enough to enable close
5 collaboration among members of the con-
6 sortium.

7 (3) DURATION.—Each designation under para-
8 graph (1) shall be for a period of two years.

9 (4) RENEWAL.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of an ap-
11 plication submitted under subparagraph (B),
12 the Secretary may renew a designation made
13 under paragraph (1) for up to two additional
14 two-year periods. Any designation as a manu-
15 facturing community or renewal of such des-
16 ignation that is in effect before the date of the
17 enactment of this Act shall count toward the
18 limit set forth in this subparagraph.

19 (B) APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL.—An eli-
20 gible consortium seeking a renewal under sub-
21 paragraph (A) shall submit an application to
22 the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
23 and containing such information as the Sec-
24 retary may require.

1 (C) MODIFICATIONS AUTHORIZED.—The
2 Secretary may renew a designation under sub-
3 paragraph (A) for an eligible consortium that—

4 (i) has changed its composition, either
5 by adding or removing members; or

6 (ii) as part of its application under
7 subparagraph (B), submits a revision to
8 the plan submitted under paragraph
9 (5)(B)(iv) or the strategy submitted under
10 paragraph (5)(B)(v).

11 (D) EVALUATION FOR RENEWAL.—In de-
12 termining whether to renew a designation of an
13 eligible consortium under paragraph (1), the
14 Secretary shall assess the eligible consortium
15 based upon—

16 (i) the performance of the consortium
17 against the terms of the consortium’s most
18 recent designation under paragraph (1)
19 and any post-designation awards the con-
20 sortium may have received;

21 (ii) the progress the consortium has
22 made with respect to project-specific
23 metrics the consortium proposed in the
24 consortium’s application for the most re-
25 cent designation under paragraph (1), par-

1 ticularly with respect to those metrics that
2 were designed to help communities track
3 their own progress;

4 (iii) whether any changes to the com-
5 position of the eligible consortium or revi-
6 sions to the plan or strategy described in
7 subparagraph (C)(ii) would improve the
8 competitiveness of United States manufac-
9 turing; and

10 (iv) such other criteria as the Sec-
11 retary considers appropriate.

12 (5) APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium
14 seeking a designation under paragraph (1) shall
15 submit an application to the Secretary at such
16 time and in such manner as the Secretary may
17 require.

18 (B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-
19 mitted to the Secretary under subparagraph (A)
20 shall include—

21 (i) a description of the regional
22 boundaries of the consortium;

23 (ii) a description of the manufacturing
24 concentration of the consortium, including
25 an assessment of how the manufacturing

1 concentration of the consortium competi-
2 tively ranks nationally according to meas-
3 ures relating to employment, sales, location
4 quotients for an industry's level of con-
5 centration, or such other measures as the
6 Secretary considers appropriate;

7 (iii) an integrated assessment of the
8 local industrial ecosystem of the region of
9 the consortium, which may include assess-
10 ment of workforce and training, such as
11 that involving women and underrep-
12 resented minorities, supplier network, re-
13 search and innovation, infrastructure or
14 site development, trade and international
15 investment, operational improvements, and
16 capital access components needed for man-
17 ufacturing activities in such region;

18 (iv) an evidence-based plan for devel-
19 oping components of such ecosystem (se-
20 lected by the consortium)—

21 (I) by making specific invest-
22 ments to address gaps in such eco-
23 system; and

1 (II) by making the manufac-
2 turing of the region of the consortium
3 uniquely competitive;

4 (v) a description of the investments
5 the consortium proposes and the imple-
6 mentation strategy the consortium intends
7 to use to address gaps in such ecosystem;

8 (vi) a description of the outcome-
9 based metrics, benchmarks, and milestones
10 that the consortium will track and the
11 evaluation methods the consortium will use
12 while designated as a manufacturing com-
13 munity to gauge performance of the strat-
14 egy of the consortium to improve the man-
15 ufacturing in the region of the consortium;
16 and

17 (vii) such other matters as the Sec-
18 retary considers appropriate.

19 (6) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The Sec-
20 retary shall evaluate each application received under
21 paragraph (5) to determine—

22 (A) whether the applicant demonstrates a
23 significant level of regional cooperation in their
24 proposal; and

1 (B) how the manufacturing concentration
2 of the applicant competitively ranks nationally
3 according to measures described in paragraph
4 (5)(B)(ii).

5 (7) CERTAIN COMMUNITIES PREVIOUSLY REC-
6 OGNIZED.—Each consortium that was designated as
7 a manufacturing community by the Secretary in car-
8 rying out the Investing in Manufacturing Commu-
9 nities Partnership initiative of the Department of
10 Commerce before the date of the enactment of this
11 Act shall be deemed a manufacturing community
12 designated under this subsection if such consortium
13 is still designated as a manufacturing community by
14 the Secretary as part of such initiative.

15 (c) SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATED MANUFACTURING
16 COMMUNITIES.—

17 (1) PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
19 subparagraph (D), if a member of a consortium
20 designated as a manufacturing community
21 under subsection (b) seeks financial or technical
22 assistance under a participating program of a
23 participating agency, the head of such agency
24 may give preferential consideration to such

1 member with respect to the awarding of such fi-
2 nancial or technical assistance if—

3 (i) such head considers the award of
4 the financial or technical assistance con-
5 sistent with the economic development
6 strategy of the consortium; and

7 (ii) the member otherwise meets all
8 applicable requirements for the financial or
9 technical assistance.

10 (B) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—The Sec-
11 retary shall invite other Federal agencies to be-
12 come participating agencies of the Manufac-
13 turing Community Support Program.

14 (C) PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS.—The head
15 of each participating agency shall identify all
16 programs administered by such participating
17 agency that are applicable to the Manufacturing
18 Community Support Program.

19 (D) MULTIPLE MEMBERS OF THE SAME
20 CONSORTIUM SEEKING THE SAME FINANCIAL
21 OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

22 (i) IN GENERAL.—If a participating
23 agency receives applications for the same
24 financial or technical assistance from more
25 than one member of the same consortium

1 designated as a manufacturing community
2 under subsection (b), the head of such
3 agency may determine how preference will
4 be given under subparagraph (A), includ-
5 ing by requiring the consortium to select
6 which of the members should be given
7 preference.

8 (ii) COORDINATION.—If the head of a
9 participating agency determines that more
10 than one member of a consortium should
11 be given preference for financial or tech-
12 nical assistance under subparagraph (A),
13 he or she may require such members to
14 demonstrate coordination with each other
15 in developing their applications for the fi-
16 nancial or technical assistance.

17 (E) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
19 head of each participating agency shall submit
20 a report to the Secretary that specifies how the
21 head will give preferential consideration under
22 subparagraph (A).

23 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
24 may make a Federal point of contact available to
25 each consortium designated as a manufacturing

community under subsection (b) to help the members of the consortium access Federal funds and technical assistance.

(3) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Under the Manufacturing Community Support Program, the head of a participating agency may award financial or technical assistance to a member of a consortium designated as a manufacturing community under subsection (b) as he or she considers appropriate for purposes of such program and consistent with the economic development strategy of the consortium.

(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of financial or technical assistance under subparagraph (A) may use such financial or technical assistance to support an investment in an ecosystem that will improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing.

(ii) INVESTMENTS SUPPORTED.—Investments supported under this subparagraph may include—

(I) infrastructure;

- 1 (II) access to capital;
- 2 (III) promotion of exports and
- 3 foreign direct investment;
- 4 (IV) equipment or facility up-
- 5 grades;
- 6 (V) workforce training, retrain-
- 7 ing, or recruitment and retention, in-
- 8 cluding that of women and underrep-
- 9 resented minorities;
- 10 (VI) energy or process efficiency;
- 11 (VII) business incubators;
- 12 (VIII) site preparation;
- 13 (IX) advanced research;
- 14 (X) supply chain development;
- 15 and
- 16 (XI) small business assistance.

17 (4) COORDINATION.—

18 (A) COORDINATION BY SECRETARY OF
19 COMMERCE.—The Secretary shall coordinate
20 with the heads of the participating agencies to
21 identify programs under paragraph (1)(C).

22 (B) INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION.—The
23 heads of the participating agencies shall coordi-
24 nate with each other—

1 (i) to leverage complementary activi-
2 ties, including from non-Federal sources,
3 such as philanthropies; and

4 (ii) to avoid duplication of efforts.

5 (d) RECEIPT OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.—The Sec-
6 retary may accept amounts transferred to the Secretary
7 from the head of another participating agency to carry out
8 this section.

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