



**For Immediate Release
December 12, 2006**

**NACFAM STATEMENT ON AL FRINK, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
COMMERCE FOR MANUFACTURING AND SERVICES**

December 11, 2006 (Washington) - Today Eric Mittelstadt, CEO of the National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM), made the following statement about the announcement last Wednesday of the resignation of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing and Services Al Frink:

“Al Frink was the first to hold this new position aimed at improving American business competitiveness. Many in the manufacturing community had long sought more recognition in Washington of the importance of manufacturing to the economic well-being of our great Nation. Al did yeoman work to raise that level of understanding, not only in DC but throughout the country. He also helped people understand that many service industries owe their prosperity to the manufacturing sector, because those services support so many operations of manufacturing companies, as well as the millions of people who work in manufacturing. He will be missed by American manufacturing and all who work to advance it.

“The challenges of the hyper-competitive global economy of the 21st century are daunting, and it is impossible for anyone to do enough to fully address all of them in two short years. But someone must make the start, and Al Frink never shrunk from the task. He began to define the job, served as the advocate for manufacturers and service providers to get their message heard, engaged manufacturing leaders from a variety of companies to advise the Department of Commerce, organized an Interagency Working Group to get things done to help manufacturers, and assembled a team to build on his dedication and carry on the unending effort to make manufacturing a permanent and important part of the national agenda.

“Al is the first person to say there is much more work remaining. That is certainly true, but when we look back in ten years, we will all appreciate the way Al put a human face on manufacturing in DC and around the country, increased the awareness of and attention to manufacturing in the federal government, and got the office of Manufacturing and Services off to such a good start. We trust the Administration will build further on this start at strengthening American manufacturing. NACFAM pledges to do everything it can to be sure Al’s efforts are rewarded by ever increasing competitiveness of American manufacturing, and ever increasing awareness of its importance to our Nation’s prosperity and our standard of living.”

The National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM) is an industry-led, policy research organization, working collaboratively since 1989 with key leaders from industry, education, and government, to shape public policies and programs to make U.S. manufacturing globally competitive. It convenes its members and other key stakeholders to identify, research, formulate, and communicate proposals in a non-partisan, non-lobbying environment. Participants include small, medium and large manufacturing firms, associations, universities and community colleges, members of Congress and their staffs, federal agencies, and other organizations.

Please visit us on the web at www.nacfam.org.