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NACFAM, WASHINGTON-BASED THINK TANK, PROPOSES POLICIES TO STRENGTHEN U.S.-BASED MANUFACTURING

On June 9, NACFAM's Advanced Manufacturing Leadership Forum approved a series of recommendations in seven broad policy areas, responding to speakers' challenges to strengthen innovation, workforce skills, knowledge and competencies, and productivity within U.S. manufacturing. They include:

Leapfrog Technological Innovation: *Raise the Next Generation Manufacturing Technology Initiative (NGMTI) to the level of a national "Grand Challenge" supported by the President, industry executives, Congress, and research leaders.*

Boost Workforce Education and Training: *Improve the image of manufacturing jobs and ensure that educators and trainers are meeting industry skill needs by increasing investment in education and training at all levels to enable workers and students to secure industry-recognized credentials, especially the emerging nationwide Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) Certification for foundational skills along with specialty skill certifications (, metalworking, welding, electronics, chemical processing, injection molding, etc.)*

Build a New Infrastructure for Supply Chain Integration: *Provide stable and sufficient support to build a national infrastructure to support teaming, collaboration and connectivity within the US manufacturing base supply chain.*

Curb Structural Costs: *Improve the competitiveness of U.S.-based manufacturing by reducing health care costs through application of lean, six-sigma, etc., and then information technologies; reducing the cost and time of regulatory compliance by value stream mapping, etc.; further reducing the impact of litigation; and exploring ways to reduce the impact on manufacturing of treating the uninsured and chronic/catastrophic illnesses, possibly through some form of reinsurance or government safety net.*

Increase Energy Reliability: *Establish an energy policy that provides the nation's industries with cost-effective, secure, and reliable energy supplies, principally from domestic resources, through improved energy efficiency, a more reliable electricity grid, and a diverse energy portfolio built on U.S. technology and innovation.*

Make Corporate Tax Rate More Globally Competitive: *Overcome the tax disadvantage that U.S. manufacturers continue to face in comparison with their major foreign competitors by lowering the effective tax rate for U.S. manufacturers through allowing full expensing of new capital equipment and repealing the corporate alternative minimum tax.*

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Secure Even Playing Field for Trade: *Make U.S. products more competitive in the global marketplace through strong measures to: (a) Redefine/reclassify currency manipulation within the WTO so that it can be targeted as an unfair trade practice/non-tariff barrier; (b) Appoint a high-level government representative to coordinate efforts between all agencies to effectively strengthen and reinforce anti-piracy initiatives; (c) Adhere firmly to the principle of reciprocal market access in all free trade agreements; and (d) Aggressively promote exports through relocating Foreign Commercial Services to areas with the greatest export growth potential and through enhancing the role of U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEACs)*

The National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM) is an industry-led, non-profit 501(c)3 education, research and services organization committed to enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of U.S.-based manufacturing. More information about NACFAM can be found at www.nacfam.org.