COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
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Statement of Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)
Hearing on Examining Federal Advanced Manufacturing Programs

Chairman Bucshon: Good morning, I'd like to welcome everyone to today's hearing where we will examine federal advanced manufacturing programs, including research and development programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and to review H.R. 1421, the "Advancing Innovative Manufacturing Act of 2013" sponsored by the Ranking Member of the Full Committee, Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Manufacturing plays a critical role in American economic competitiveness. Manufacturing represents approximately 11 percent of the American economy, and manufacturing output has risen by 13 percent over the last several years. Manufacturing also has the greatest multiplier effect of any major sector in the American economy and nearly 60 percent of all U.S. exports are in manufactured goods.

While there are areas in decline in American manufacturing, such as labor-intensive, low-skilled manufacturing activities, there are also significant opportunities of growth in knowledge and technology-intensive advanced manufacturing.

For example, the semiconductor industry boasts nearly 250,000 high-paying direct jobs in the U.S. alone, while supporting an additional 1 million jobs indirectly.

The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology or PCAST, defines advanced manufacturing as "a family of activities that (a) depend on the use and coordination of information, automation, computation, software, sensing, and networking, and/or (b) make use of cutting edge materials and emerging capabilities enabled by the physical and biological sciences."

With a technical knowledge base supported by our excellent universities and research institutes, and with innovation leadership supported by our private industries, both large and small, the U.S. has the opportunity to lead the world in advanced manufacturing competitiveness.

However, it is incumbent upon us as policy makers to create an environment that will enable American advanced manufacturing to thrive. Unfortunately, I am concerned that we have not lived up to our end of the bargain.

While all of our major global competitors have been lowering their corporate tax rates, ours has been essentially unchanged for the past twenty years. Rising costs in health care, regulatory compliance and energy all discourage manufacturing from thriving domestically. And, uncertainty about our future debt inhibits private sector investment in future growth.

It is critical that we focus on the policies that will make America the most competitive country in the world to start or grow a business.

Given our current budget crisis, it is crucial that we maximize our investments to ensure the greatest return for our hardworking taxpayers' dollars. We cannot continue to spend endless amounts of borrowed money to create new programs without making cuts elsewhere. Prioritization is critical.

I look forward to hearing our witnesses' thoughts on measurement science conducted at the NIST laboratories, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortium program, and the Administration's proposal for the National Network of Manufacturing Innovation. We also look forward to hearing our witnesses' thoughts on the Ranking Member's bill and about improvements and prioritization that can be made to our federal advanced manufacturing R&D programs.

We thank our witnesses for being here today and we look forward to your testimony.

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