

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

THOMAS K. NORMENT, JR.
3RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF GLOUCESTER, KING AND QUEEN, KING
WILLIAM, AND NEW KENT COUNTIES; ALL OF
THE CITY OF POQUOSON; PART OF ISLE OF
WIGHT, JAMES CITY, SURRY, AND YORK
COUNTIES; AND PART OF THE CITIES OF
HAMPTON AND SUFFOLK
POST OFFICE BOX 6205
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA 23188
(804) 698-7503 RICHMOND
(757) 259-7810 WILLIAMSBURG
(800) 698-2027 TOLL FREE



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COURTS OF JUSTICE, CHAIR
COMMERCE AND LABOR
FINANCE
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
RULES

July 15, 2015

Ms. Barbara Morrison
Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME)
3701 Algonquin Road, Suite 225
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Re: AME's Adopt-a-School Program on Manufacturing Day

Dear Ms. Morrison,

As a member of the Senate of Virginia, I am pleased to recognize the Association for Manufacturing Excellence and the Adopt-a-School and/or College Program. AME stands as a leader in addressing Virginia's and the nation's economic and educational challenges. Overcoming these hurdles is imperative if our Commonwealth and nation are to remain relevant as manufacturing powerhouses. The AME initiative identifies the need for a strategic plan to revitalize manufacturing, the public education system, and the economy. I support these goals, and I look forward to partnering with legislators to implement the AME program in Virginia.

Although most Americans understand that manufacturing is critical to reviving the economy, many parents do not instinctively recommend this career path to their sons and daughters. A 2015 Deloitte study of manufacturers finds that 82 percent are experiencing a skills shortage, while estimates indicate that 85 percent of all new jobs will require some level of skill.¹ These skills are duly rewarded; compensation within manufacturing jobs is 18 percent higher than other sectors of the workforce.²

I believe in the importance of supporting AME efforts within Virginia. This collaboration will permit AME to reach out to businesses, schools, and colleges to facilitate community engagement in deploying the Adopt a School/College Program on Manufacturing Day, October 2, 2015. Manufacturing Day provides manufacturers with an opportunity to tell their company's story, dispel outdated myths about manufacturing, inspire a new generation of manufacturers, and connect with communities. The events highlight the importance of enrolling in the Career & Technical Education courses and learning how to apply science, technology, engineering and

¹http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/~/.media/827DBC76533942679A15EF7067A704CD/2015_Skills_Gap_Report.pdf

²<http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/Research/Facts-About-Manufacturing/~/.media/A9EEE900EAF04B2892177207D9FF23C9.ashx>

³ For information on Manufacturing Day, see <http://www.mfgday.com/>.

math (STEM) skills in the workplace. I encourage all communities to participate in the national Manufacturing Day celebration.³

Within Virginia, the Williamsburg James City County (WJCC) School District is recognized as the first community in North America to participate in the Adopt-a-School Program on Manufacturing Day. To achieve this milestone, WJCC successfully partnered with the community while cultivating bipartisan support from local, state, and federal representatives. This successful initiative stands as a model not only within Virginia, but also throughout the nation. I am privileged to represent James City County, and I am excited about this promising initiative.

AME's actions foster partnerships between communities, schools, businesses, and citizens. These connections ensure that career-ready citizens are joining the workforce or progressing to college. The capable young people who participate in these programs will lead the way in bringing manufacturing jobs back to our Commonwealth and to the nation. This movement enables the next generation to attain a middle class quality of life, thereby raising the standard of living for all Americans.

Thank you in advance for your interest and your help in making the "American Dream" a reality in Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas K. Norment, Jr." in a cursive style.

Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
