

MUSC

HOLLINGS CANCER CENTER

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TO THE HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING CENTER COMMUNITY:

Today I wish to join in the celebration of 30 years of the Hollings Manufacturing Centers. I have long held the philosophy that you have to make something the world needs in order to thrive. I knew such a program was needed but the accomplishments of the MEP community may have exceeded my expectations. The fact that this governmental program is thriving with bipartisan support after 30 years is so rare these days. In addition the fact that so much of the work is delivered by the private sector adds to the triumph.

Thirty years later, with almost 99 percent of all US manufacturing firms in the small to medium sized category---it is needed more than ever. And in 2017 to have served over 26,000 companies fulfills the vision.

Creating almost a million jobs directly and another 4 million with the multiplier effect is extraordinary.

Just last year to have over 12 billion dollars in new and retained sales as well as \$3.5 billion in new investment directly attributable to the Hollings Centers is commendable.

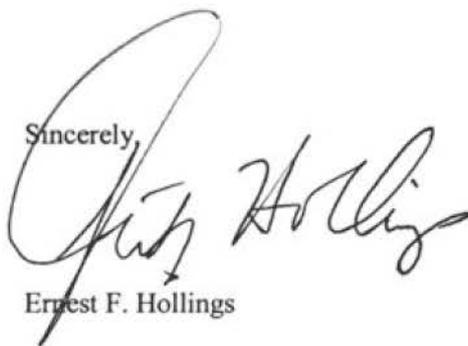
And, given my fiscal conservatism, to know that every one dollar of federal money going into the Hollings Centers generates \$14.50 back to the treasury is the best measure of policy success. You are reducing the deficit. We could have used a few more programs like that for Gramm-Rudman-Hollings initiative. Obviously we need that more than ever these days.

In my own South Carolina we have had the opportunity to attract companies such as BMW, Boeing and Volvo among others. Without MEP that does not happen. SCMEP builds those supply chains and more importantly enables existing firms in SC to participate. I am so gratified by almost \$2.5 billion dollars impact in SC during 2017 on a federal investment of a little over \$2 million dollars.

Congratulations on a job well done. I commend the people of NIST, thousands of MEP workers over the years throughout the country, the American Small Manufacturers Coalition and others for this achievement. But enough of the laurels, let's get back to work---America needs the Hollings MEP Centers; yesterday, today and tomorrow.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Ernest F. Hollings