

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
U.S. Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel,

We appreciate the selection of the UI LABS team as one of a few applicants to be invited to submit a full proposal for the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation (DMDI) Institute. As you consider full proposals, we write to express our support for the Digital Lab for Manufacturing ("Digital Lab"), a proposal led by UI LABS, an independent, nonprofit organization based in Chicago that includes partnerships with three of Indiana's premier research institutions: Purdue University, University of Notre Dame, and Indiana University.

These three high-quality major research universities are primary drivers of innovation for advancing engineering, technology, and intellectual property both in Indiana and across the nation. This high concentration of researchers is a vital component for qualified partners of the Digital Lab proposal, and a necessity for program effectiveness in a collaborative research environment.

The UI LABS-led Digital Lab team includes the nation's premier engineering schools, the country's leading defense and commercial manufacturers, the world's most powerful supercomputer, and nationally-recognized education and business development partners. Together partner commitments exceed \$250 million, more than tripling the commitment of the federal government.

The Midwest-based Digital Lab is uniquely positioned to bring transformational returns on the federal government's research and development investment, unlocking billions in value for American manufacturers, expanding access to new technology and opportunity for small manufacturers and creating high-wage, high-skilled jobs for American workers.

For these reasons, we ask that you give the Digital Lab proposal full consideration.

Respectfully,



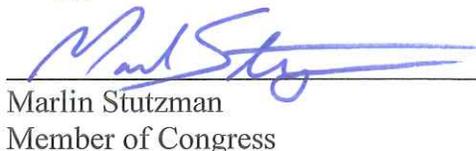
Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress



Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator



Pete Visclosky  
Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman  
Member of Congress



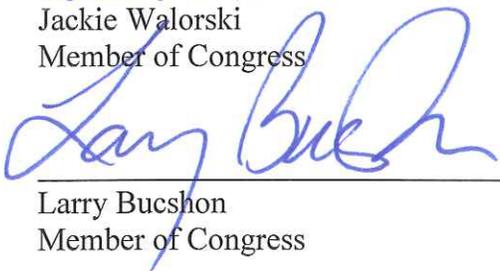
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Todd Young  
Member of Congress



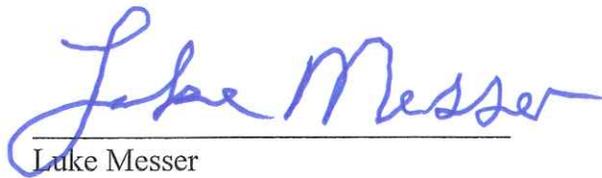
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Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress



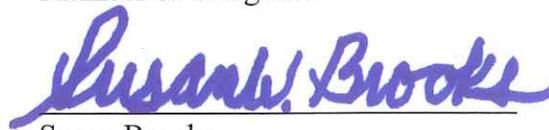
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Larry Bucshon  
Member of Congress



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Luke Messer  
Member of Congress



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Susan Brooks  
Member of Congress



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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress