

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 14, 2013

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

Dear Secretary Hagel,

As you consider proposals for the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation (DMDI) Institute, we write to express our strong support for the Digital Lab for Manufacturing ("Digital Lab"), a proposal led by UI LABS, and includes partnerships with Purdue University, Indiana University and the University of Notre Dame.

Indiana is a worldwide manufacturing leader. Manufacturers in Indiana account for over one-quarter of the total output in the state, employing 16 percent of the workforce. Manufacturing compensation is nearly 70 percent higher than other nonfarm employers in the state.

The Midwest's central location is a smart choice for this important federal grant and Indiana is a proven leader in advanced manufacturing. From motor vehicle production to innovative electronics, leading manufacturing firms from across the county and around the world have chosen Indiana for their plants and corporate offices. Indiana combines traditional production, progressive technology and a skilled workforce to create an attractive environment for manufacturers.

The Digital Lab proposal builds on our State's strengths as a collaboration of industry, university, and public sector partners. Leveraging the Midwest's unique capabilities, partnerships, and workforce, the Digital Lab will develop innovative solutions that transform both defense and civilian industries with hundreds of billions in annual savings. Integration through "digital DNA" will dramatically reduce the time and cost it takes to design, source, and manufacture spare parts for legacy equipment. It will also expand markets and the base of suppliers and drive innovation in goods and services by companies large and small.

With this combined experience and financial commitment, Digital Lab holds great promise for returns on the federal government's research and development investment. It will meet the needs of both the military and private industry. By increasing transparency and lowering barriers, digital manufacturing technologies will create new opportunities for small manufacturers and create high-wage, high-skilled jobs for American workers.

We ask that you give the Digital Lab concept paper your full consideration and encourage you to request a complete proposal.

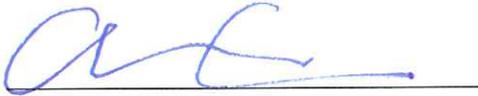
Sincerely,



Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress



Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator



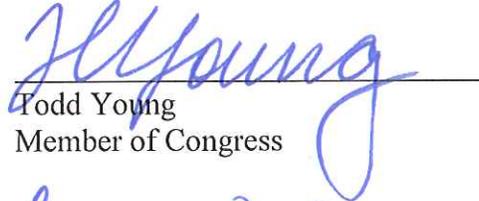
André Carson  
Member of Congress



Pete Visclosky  
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon  
Member of Congress



Todd Young  
Member of Congress



Luke Messer  
Member of Congress



Susan Brooks  
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Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman  
Member of Congress