

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 9, 2010

Secretary Timothy Geithner
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Secretary Gary Locke
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretaries Geithner and Locke:

I am writing to applaud the Administration for taking the initiative to develop a comprehensive public-private partnership to expand opportunities for American manufacturers to use computer-based modeling and simulation through the proposed National Digital Engineering and Manufacturing Consortium (NDEMC). I also write to express my support for the efforts of the Council on Competitiveness to work alongside the Administration in developing the NDEMC.

The Council has been a leading voice promoting the benefits of advanced computation, modeling, simulation and analysis to improve the productivity, innovation and competitiveness of America's small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). With collaboration and support from major manufacturers in the Midwest, the proposed NDEMC will provide training and affordable access to these advanced computational tools. NDEMC is vital to the recovery of manufacturing across the Midwest, and will serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

As you know, Ohio and other Midwest states have a long and deep commitment to a vibrant U.S. manufacturing sector. Ohio's workers and communities have been hit hard by the recent recession, with unemployment rates, particularly in manufacturing, not seen since the Great Depression. The proposed NDEMC will help confront the immediate and long-term challenges of a renewed and revitalized manufacturing sector, one that is of critical importance to maintain America's leadership in a highly competitive global marketplace. We cannot afford to squander the highly skilled workers and manufacturing infrastructure that has contributed so much to our nation's past prosperity.

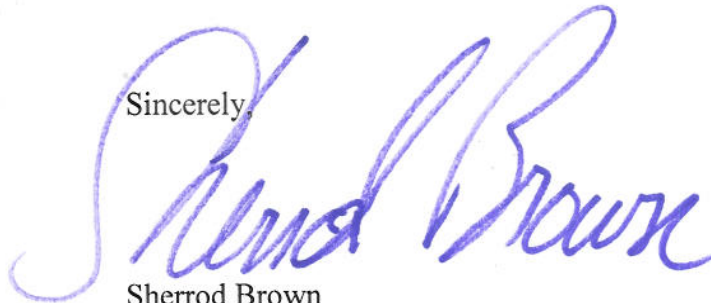
Ohio is also well-positioned to play a major role in implementing this national effort. The proposed NDEMC will draw on the knowledge base and technical expertise of some of the nation's leading research institutions in the field of advanced computing, modeling, simulation and analysis, including most notably the Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC) at The Ohio State

University. The partnership between a world class university and cutting-edge research institution has considerable expertise in providing advanced computational tools and training to small and medium sized manufacturers.

OSC initiated its "Blue Collar Computing" program in 2004. Working in partnership with Ohio institutions, colleges and universities, and businesses, OSC has already prepared many manufacturing firms to make use of the power of high performance computing to improve efficiency and speed new products to market. Most recently, in collaboration with Polymer Ohio, OSC has initiated a program funded through the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP) to bring to provide a range of computational services to small businesses in Ohio's world renowned polymer industry.

In addition to the active partnership between OSC, The Ohio State University, and the Ohio Board of Regents, Cincinnati-based Proctor & Gamble is involved in efforts among Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) to pledge contributions to this national effort. I am proud and enthusiastic about the role Ohio can play in this project, and stand ready to assist the Administration in moving it forward.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

cc: John Fernandez, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Economic Development
Ron Bloom, Senior Counselor for Manufacturing, Department of the Treasury