

For Immediate Release
November 9, 2007

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Congressman Hodes Secures Grant for New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership

\$1.6 million grant will expand opportunities for New Hampshire businesses

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Paul Hodes announced today that the New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NH MEP) will receive a \$1.6 million grant in the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Appropriations Conference Report. The grant funds a six-state initiative designed to integrate New England manufacturers into national defense supply chains. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Conference Report yesterday by a vote of 400-15.

“The New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the New England Manufacturing Supply Chain are important to our state's economy,” said Congressman Hodes. “I am proud to have fought for this funding and will continue to do everything I can to support New Hampshire's local businesses.”

“We are very appreciative of the Congressman's support of the New Hampshire manufacturing community,” said Zenagui Brahim, New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Director of Operations. “This funding will help the New Hampshire MEP to work with manufacturers in the aerospace and defense industry, resulting in greater integration of New Hampshire manufacturers in national defense supply chains.”

For the past three years, the Defense Logistics Agency has funded the New England Manufacturing Supply Chain (NEMSC). The NEMSC develops and deploys innovative solutions to increase the participation of small and medium-sized New England manufacturers into the defense and commercial supply chains. The NEMSC has researched, investigated, catalogued, and developed methodologies to incorporate New

England manufacturing capacity for on-demand materials shortages that address critical backorder problems related to combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere.

The grant will also expand the pool of businesses capable of fulfilling defense equipment requests, which will make the process more efficient. NH MEP provides affordable, innovative solutions to the problems encountered by today's manufacturing enterprise by facilitating interaction between industry, government, and academia.

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