



October 15, 2024

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Member
U.S. House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Larson
Member
U.S. House of Representatives
1501 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Courtney
Member
U.S. House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Jim Himes
Member
U.S. House of Representatives
2137 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jahana Hayes
Member
U.S. House of Representatives
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Members of the Connecticut Congressional Delegation:

As executives representing electronics manufacturing in Connecticut, we respectfully ask you to please support an increase to the Fiscal Year 2025 Defense Production Act Purchases (DPAP) account and direct the Secretary of Defense to allocate funding for ongoing investments in printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturing. Specifically, we call on the House of Representatives to recede to the Senate position in S. 4921, of \$909,377,000 for Defense Production Act Purchases, which includes \$45 million for Printed Circuit Boards.

Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) form the foundation of virtually all technology powered by electronics. Multiple assessments by the federal government have identified a strategic risk in the United States' lack of manufacturing capability and capacity for PCBsⁱ. In 2023, President Biden issued Presidential Determination 2023-06 identifying this industrial shortfall as a threat to U.S. national security. Despite this ongoing and well-documented need, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8774 **with no funding allocated** in the Defense Production Act Purchases account to address the presidential determination on PCBs.

The state of Connecticut has a unique position home to the home to largest PCB manufacturer in the United States, along with chemical and material suppliers, electronics assembly companies, and the largest electronics manufacturing training company in North America. As a region that contains so many pieces of this complex ecosystem, Connecticut is a critical piece of the national strategy for securing supply chains. 25 years ago, The U.S. was home to nearly 2,000 printed circuit board manufacturers and produced roughly from 30% of the world's circuit boards. Today, fewer than 150 domestic PCB manufacturers produce just 4% of the global circuit board supply, leaving the U.S. with supply chains that depend heavily on foreign sources for this fundamental component of all electronic goods.

Defense Production Act investment will enable the few remaining PCB manufacturers, like those in California, to develop both technological capability and the production capacity to meet the needs of U.S. defense systems from missiles to onboard sensors to satellites. If one thinks about the electronics in every weapon, vehicle, and piece of equipment funded by the \$850 billion Defense budget, most of them will not function without advanced PCBs. By maintaining funding for PCB technology in the FY25 appropriation, Congress will be acting to ensure the United States can manufacture these core pieces of the national defense infrastructure.

We urge you to support the funding level for Defense Production Act Purchases in S. 4921 including \$45 million for printed circuit boards. This funding will be an important step to both strengthen national security and support Connecticut's role as a lynchpin in the electronics supply chain.

Sincerely,

Tom Edman
President and CEO
TTM Technologies
Stafford, CT
Stafford Springs, CT

Burak Gokmen
President
EPTAC
Watertown, CT

Mark Eonta
President and CEO
Uyemura International
Southington, CT

Nicole Russo
Owner, President and CEO
Microboard
Seymour, CT

Notes

ⁱ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security. (2023). *Assessment of the Status of The Microelectronics Industrial Base in the United States*. <https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/documents/technology-evaluation/3402-section-9904-report-final-20231221/file>

House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party. (2023). *Reset, Prevent, Build: A Strategy to Win America's Economic Competition with the Chinese Communist Party*. <https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/reset-prevent-build-scc-report.pdf>

Presidential Determination No. 2023-06. (2023). <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/06/2023-04617/presidential-determination-pursuant-to-section-303-of-the-defense-production-act-of-1950-as-amended>

U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2022). *Assessment of the Critical Supply Chains Supporting the U.S. Information and Communications Technology Industry*. <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/Assessment-Critical-Supply-Chains-Supporting-US-ICT-Industry.pdf>

U.S. Department of Defense. (2018). *Assessing and Strengthening the Manufacturing and Defense Industrial Base and Supply Chain Resiliency of the United States*. <https://media.defense.gov/2018/Oct/05/2002048904/-1/-1/1/ASSESSING-AND-STRENGTHENING-THE-MANUFACTURING-AND%20DEFENSE-INDUSTRIAL-BASE-AND-SUPPLY-CHAIN-RESILIENCY.PDF>

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security. (2017). *U.S. Bare Printed Circuit Board Industry Assessment*. <https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/documents/technology-evaluation/2378-u-s-bare-printed-circuit-board-industry-assessment-2017/file>.