

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 10, 2024

Subcommittee Chairman Ken Calvert (CA)
Ranking Member Betty McCollum (MN)
H-405 The Capitol
(202) 225-2847

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We are writing to voice our strong support for important funding to support the domestic printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturing industry in the Fiscal Year 2025 Defense Production Act Purchases (DPAP) account and language directing the Secretary of Defense to allocate funding for ongoing investments in printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturing. Specifically, we encourage you to include the \$45 million line item in the DPAP account for Printed Circuit Boards, as passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee in [S.4921](#).

Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) form the foundation of virtually all technology powered by electronics. Every printed circuit board is a custom-designed, sophisticated piece of technology that connects and enables semiconductors and many other components in an electronic system. Unfortunately, the United States manufacturing base for PCBs has eroded greatly over the last 25 years, leaving military and critical infrastructure dangerously dependent on foreign suppliers of this core enabling technology.

Over the past few years, the federal government has repeatedly identified diminished PCB manufacturing capability and capacity as a strategic supply chain risk, including in a 2018 report by the Trump administration. Last year, President Biden issued [Presidential Determination 2023-06](#), naming the PCB industrial shortfall as a threat to our national security. However, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8774 **with no funding allocated** for FY25 to address the presidential determination on PCBs in the Defense Production Act Purchases account.

Our states and districts are home to some of the few remaining PCB manufacturers in the United States. Just 25 years ago, the U.S. PCB industry was composed of more than 2,000 manufacturers who produced 30% of the global supply. Today those numbers have fallen to fewer than 150 companies and just 4% of the global PCB market. In the event of a conflict or any other disruption of trade in the Indo-Pacific region, the impact on the United States' ability to maintain and manufacture electronics would be catastrophic given our dependence on foreign PCBs. As it stands today, our entire industrial base would be completely outmatched by just one factory in China, of which there are hundreds.

Defense Production Act investment will enable U.S. manufacturers to invest in needed factory automation, workforce training, and new facilities to meet the needs of both current U.S. defense systems as well as newer, more complex technology like ultra-high-density PCBs, which are needed in everything from 155mm shells to guided missiles to onboard sensors and satellites.

This modest investment represents a prudent use of taxpayer funds to ensure our domestic industrial base is capable of manufacturing the electronics that power virtually every military capability in our arsenal. From communications to surveillance, to the vehicles, weapons, and sensors that our warfighters rely upon, most of them will not function without advanced PCBs. By maintaining funding for printed circuit board technology in FY25 and beyond, we can ensure the United States is able to maintain and manufacture core pieces of the national defense infrastructure.

As you negotiate the final FY25 appropriations package, we urge you to please include the \$45 million funding for PCBs.

Sincerely,



Brandon Williams
Member of Congress



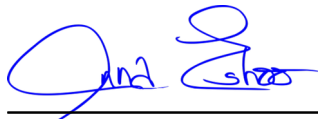
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