

October 7, 2016

Dear Friend,

As we mark National Manufacturing Day today and Manufacturing Month during October, I hope you will join me in recognizing how important skilled labor is to our economy in eastern Connecticut. This is a promising time for our region as an increase in local manufacturing is creating new jobs and driving economic growth across the state and right here in our own backyard. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight just a few of the exciting manufacturing developments taking place in eastern Connecticut that I have seen firsthand over the last year.

A 'Manufacturing Pipeline' to train new workers

Last Friday, I attended the grand opening of the new Quinebaug Valley Community College advanced manufacturing center in Danielson. The new cutting edge facility will be a key part of the manufacturing pipeline that helps to train students in the skills needed to meet the growing demand of the submarine industry and other manufacturing initiatives in the region. With EB poised to make more than 1,500 new hires this year alone, and thousands over the next decade, it's an all-hands-on-deck operation to get new workers trained for these well-paying careers.



Rep. Courtney at the ribbon cutting for Quinebaug Valley Community College's new advanced manufacturing center in Danielson

That's why last year I helped to establish the manufacturing pipeline in partnership with our local community colleges and the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment after obtaining a $6 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. Just last spring, the pipeline graduated its very first class from another partnering school, Three Rivers Community College in Norwich. Now with the addition of the new QVCC advanced manufacturing center, we have greatly increased our ability to provide students with a top-tier technical education, and we can get more students through the program faster.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of so many business owners and workers in eastern Connecticut, our manufacturing future looks very bright. I will continue to do all I can to make sure our region is a place where manufacturing continues to thrive.

Have a great weekend,

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

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