

TOM EMMER
6TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

315 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2331

COMMITTEES
FINANCIAL SERVICES

DISTRICT OFFICE
9201 QUADAY AVENUE NE
SUITE 206
OTSEGO, MN 55330
(763) 241-6848

SUBCOMMITTEES
INVESTOR PROTECTION,
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House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2306

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STEERING

REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM

DEPUTY WHIP TEAM

September 20, 2019

Ms. Susan Brehm, Regional Counsel
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
230 South Dearborn Street Suite 3280
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Brehm,

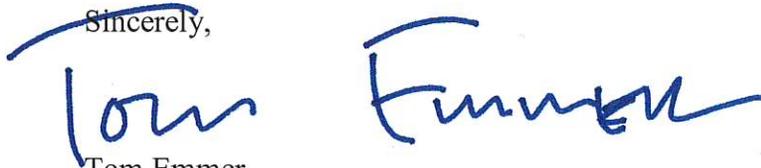
I write in support of a grant application submitted by the St. Cloud Technical and Community College. The Advanced Manufacturing Training Lab project will empower the growth in the College's Manufacturing Technology Department and the Energy and Electronics program. Additionally, the project provides the capacity to serve new students and facilitate new skills for incumbent workers looking for opportunities to build and maintain a workforce.

After learning that Electrolux, a company that has a long history of employment in manufacturing and production occupations, will discontinue its production at the end of this year, the St. Cloud Technical and Community College identified the need for the project in collaboration with St. Cloud State University and the City of St. Cloud. The St. Cloud Economic Development Authority analysis provided recommendations for target industries and identified gaps in the workforce to meet projected growth. This new space is intended to join the machine tool program with robotics and automation to create a more realistic learning environment, and the new equipment can facilitate in teaching students cutting edge skills relevant to industry trends.

The development and training in new technology is important to the growth and sustainability of manufacturing, and our region's ability to sustain its workforce. According to the college, the project will increase the pipeline of skilled workers to meet current and future needs of businesses in the region, resulting in the retention of 1,050 jobs, and the creation of 240 new jobs over the next ten years. With the help of these grant funds, this project and the greater St. Cloud area will ensure a smooth economic transition after Electrolux's closing.

I respectfully request that you give this grant application full and fair consideration. Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance as you make your determination.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress