

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.

**S. 3084**

To invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by <sup>Mr. Blumenthal</sup> ~~Mrs. GILLIBRAND~~  
with Ms. Klobuchar

Viz:

1 At the end of title V, add the following:

2 **SEC. 503. MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES.**

3 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the  
4 “Made in America Manufacturing Communities Act of  
5 2016”.

6 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 ~~(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The~~  
8 ~~term “institution of higher education” has the~~  
9 ~~meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-~~  
10 ~~er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).~~

1       ~~(1)(2)~~ MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
2 PROGRAM.—The term “Manufacturing Community  
3 Support Program” means the program established  
4 under subsection (c).

5       ~~(2)(3)~~ PARTICIPATING AGENCY.—The term “par-  
6 ticipating agency” means a Federal agency that  
7 elects to participate in the Manufacturing Commu-  
8 nity Support Program.

9       ~~(3)(4)~~ PARTICIPATING PROGRAM.—The term “par-  
10 ticipating program” means a program identified by  
11 a participating agency under subsection (d)(1)(C).

12       ~~(4)(5)~~ SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
13 the Secretary of Commerce.

14       (c) PROGRAM TO DESIGNATE AND SUPPORT MANU-  
15 FACTURING COMMUNITIES.—The Secretary shall establish  
16 a program to improve the competitiveness of United States  
17 manufacturing by—

18           (1) designating consortiums as manufacturing  
19 communities under subsection (e); and

20           (2) supporting manufacturing communities, as  
21 so designated, under subsection (d).

22       (d) SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATED MANUFACTURING  
23 COMMUNITIES.—

24           (1) PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
2           subparagraph (D), if a member of a consortium  
3           designated as a manufacturing community  
4           under subsection (e) seeks financial or technical  
5           assistance under a participating program of a  
6           participating agency, the head of such agency  
7           may give preferential consideration to such  
8           member with respect to the awarding of such fi-  
9           nancial or technical assistance if—

10                   (i) such head considers the award of  
11                   the financial or technical assistance con-  
12                   sistent with the economic development  
13                   strategy of the consortium; and

14                   (ii) the member otherwise meets all  
15                   applicable requirements for the financial or  
16                   technical assistance.

17           (B) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—The Sec-  
18           retary shall invite other Federal agencies to be-  
19           come participating agencies of the Manufac-  
20           turing Community Support Program.

21           (C) PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS.—The head  
22           of each participating agency shall identify all  
23           programs administered by such participating  
24           agency that are applicable to the Manufacturing  
25           Community Support Program.

1           (D) MULTIPLE MEMBERS OF THE SAME  
2           CONSORTIUM SEEKING THE SAME FINANCIAL  
3           OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

4           (i) IN GENERAL.—If a participating  
5           agency receives applications for the same  
6           financial or technical assistance from more  
7           than 1 member of the same consortium  
8           designated as a manufacturing community  
9           under subsection (e), the head of such  
10          agency may determine how preference will  
11          be given under subparagraph (A), includ-  
12          ing by requiring the consortium to select  
13          which of the members should be given  
14          preference.

15          (ii) COORDINATION.—If the head of a  
16          participating agency determines that more  
17          than 1 member of a consortium should be  
18          given preference under subparagraph (A)  
19          for financial or technical assistance, he or  
20          she may require such members to dem-  
21          onstrate coordination with each other in  
22          developing their applications for the finan-  
23          cial or technical assistance.

24          (E) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days  
25          after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

1 head of each participating agency shall submit  
2 a report to the Secretary that specifies how the  
3 head will give preferential consideration under  
4 subparagraph (A).

5 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
6 may make a Federal point of contact available to  
7 each consortium designated as a manufacturing  
8 community under subsection (e) to help the mem-  
9 bers of the consortium access Federal funds and  
10 technical assistance.

11 (3) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Under the Manufac-  
13 turing Community Support Program, the head  
14 of a participating agency may award financial  
15 or technical assistance to a member of a consor-  
16 tium designated as a manufacturing community  
17 under subsection (e) as he or she considers ap-  
18 propriate for purposes of such program and  
19 consistent with the economic development strat-  
20 egy of the consortium.

21 (B) USE OF FUNDS.—

22 (i) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of fi-  
23 nancial or technical assistance under sub-  
24 paragraph (A) may use such financial or  
25 technical assistance to support an invest-

1                   ment in an ecosystem that will improve the  
2                   competitiveness of United States manufac-  
3                   turing.

4                   (ii) INVESTMENTS SUPPORTED.—In-  
5                   vestments supported under this subpara-  
6                   graph may include—

7                               (I) infrastructure;

8                               (II) access to capital;

9                               (III) promotion of exports and  
10                   foreign direct investment;

11                              (IV) equipment or facility up-  
12                   grades;

13                              (V) workforce training or retrain-  
14                   ing;

15                              (VI) energy or process efficiency;

16                              (VII) business incubators;

17                              (VIII) site preparation;

18                              (IX) advanced research; ~~and~~

19                              (X) supply chain development; *and*  
20                              ~~(XI)~~ *small business assistance.*

(4) COORDINATION.—

21                   (A) COORDINATION BY SECRETARY OF  
22                   COMMERCE.—The Secretary shall coordinate  
23                   with the heads of the participating agencies to  
24                   identify programs under paragraph (1)(C)(i).



- 1 (III) a government entity;
- 2 (iii) may include 1 or more—
- 3 (I) private sector partners;
- 4 (II) institutions of higher edu-
- 5 cation;
- 6 (III) government entities;
- 7 (IV) economic development and
- 8 other community and labor groups;
- 9 (V) financial institutions; or
- 10 (VI) utilities;
- 11 (iv) has, as a lead applicant—
- 12 (I) a district organization (as de-
- 13 fined in section 300.3 of title 13,
- 14 Code of Federal Regulations, or suc-
- 15 cessor regulation);
- 16 (II) an Indian tribe (as defined
- 17 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
- 18 mination and Education Assistance
- 19 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)) or a consor-
- 20 tium of Indian tribes;
- 21 (III) a State or a political sub-
- 22 division of a State, including a special
- 23 purpose unit of a State or local gov-
- 24 ernment engaged in economic or in-



1                   frastructure development activities, or  
2                   a consortium of political subdivisions;

3                   (IV) an institution of higher edu-  
4                   cation or a consortium of institutions  
5                   of higher education; or

6                   (V) a public or private nonprofit  
7                   organization or association that <sup>has an</sup> ~~is act-~~  
8                   <sup>application that is supported by a state,</sup>  
9                   <sup>ing in cooperation with officials of a</sup>  
                    <sup>a political subdivision of a state, or a native community.</sup>  
                    ~~political subdivision of a State.~~

10                  (B) REGIONS.—Subject to approval by the  
11                  Secretary, a consortium may define the region  
12                  that it represents if the region—

13                   (i) is large enough to contain critical  
14                   elements of the key technologies or supply  
15                   chain prioritized by the consortium; and

16                   (ii) is small enough to enable close  
17                   collaboration among members of the con-  
18                   sortium.

19                  (3) DURATION.—Each designation under para-  
20                  graph (1) shall be for a period of 2 years.

21                  (4) RENEWAL.—

22                   (A) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of an ap-  
23                   plication submitted under subparagraph (B),  
24                   the Secretary may renew a designation made  
25                   under paragraph (1) for up to 2 additional 2-

1 year periods. Any designation as a manufac-  
2 turing community or renewal of such designa-  
3 tion that is in effect before the date of the en-  
4 actment of this Act shall count toward the limit  
5 set forth in this subparagraph.

6 (B) APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL.—An eli-  
7 gible consortium seeking a renewal under sub-  
8 paragraph (A) shall submit an application to  
9 the Secretary at such time, in such manner,  
10 and containing such information as the Sec-  
11 retary may require.

12 (C) MODIFICATIONS AUTHORIZED.—The  
13 Secretary may renew a designation under sub-  
14 paragraph (A) for an eligible consortium that—

15 (i) has changed its composition, either  
16 by adding or removing members; or

17 (ii) as part of its application under  
18 subparagraph (B), submits a revision to  
19 the plan submitted under paragraph  
20 (5)(B)(iv) or the strategy submitted under  
21 paragraph (5)(B)(v).

22 (D) EVALUATION FOR RENEWAL.—In de-  
23 termining whether to renew a designation of an  
24 eligible consortium under paragraph (1), the

1 Secretary shall assess the eligible consortium  
2 based upon—

3 (i) the performance of the consortium  
4 against the terms of the consortium's most  
5 recent designation under paragraph (1)  
6 and any post-designation awards the con-  
7 sortium may have received;

8 (ii) the progress the consortium has  
9 made with respect to project-specific  
10 metrics the consortium proposed in the  
11 consortium's application for the most re-  
12 cent designation under paragraph (1), par-  
13 ticularly with respect to those metrics that  
14 were designed to help communities track  
15 their own progress;

16 (iii) whether any changes to the com-  
17 position of the eligible consortium or revi-  
18 sions to the plan or strategy described in  
19 subparagraph (C)(ii) would improve the  
20 competitiveness of United States manufac-  
21 turing; and

22 (iv) such other criteria as the Sec-  
23 retary considers appropriate.

24 (5) APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium  
2 seeking a designation under paragraph (1) shall  
3 submit an application to the Secretary at such  
4 time and in such manner as the Secretary may  
5 require.

6           (B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-  
7 mitted to the Secretary under subparagraph (A)  
8 include—

9                   (i) a description of the regional  
10 boundaries of the consortium;

11                   (ii) a description of the manufacturing  
12 concentration of the consortium, including  
13 an assessment of how the manufacturing  
14 concentration of the consortium competi-  
15 tively ranks nationally according to meas-  
16 ures relating to employment, sales, location  
17 quotients for an industry's level of con-  
18 centration, or such other measures as the  
19 Secretary considers appropriate;

20                   (iii) an integrated assessment of the  
21 local industrial ecosystem of the region of  
22 the consortium, which may include assess-  
23 ment of workforce and training, supplier  
24 network, research and innovation, infra-  
25 structure or site development, trade and

1 international investment, operational im-  
2 provements, and capital access components  
3 needed for manufacturing activities in such  
4 region;

5 (iv) an evidence-based plan for devel-  
6 oping components of such ecosystem (se-  
7 lected by the consortium) by making—

8 (I) specific investments to ad-  
9 dress gaps in such ecosystem; and

10 (II) the manufacturing of the re-  
11 gion of the consortium uniquely com-  
12 petitive;

13 (v) a description of the investments  
14 the consortium proposes and the imple-  
15 mentation strategy the consortium intends  
16 to use to address gaps in such ecosystem;

17 (vi) a description of the outcome-  
18 based metrics, benchmarks, and milestones  
19 that the consortium will track and the  
20 evaluation methods the consortium will use  
21 while designated as a manufacturing com-  
22 munity to gauge performance of the strat-  
23 egy of the consortium to improve the man-  
24 ufacturing in the region of the consortium;  
25 and

1 (vii) such other matters as the Sec-  
2 retary considers appropriate.

3 (6) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The Sec-  
4 retary shall evaluate each application received under  
5 paragraph (5) to determine—

6 (A) whether the applicant demonstrates a  
7 significant level of regional cooperation in their  
8 proposal; and

9 (B) how the manufacturing concentration  
10 of the applicant competitively ranks nationally  
11 according to measures described in paragraph  
12 (5)(B)(ii).

13 (7) CERTAIN COMMUNITIES PREVIOUSLY REC-  
14 OGNIZED.—Each consortium that was designated as  
15 a manufacturing community by the Secretary in car-  
16 rying out the Investing in Manufacturing Commu-  
17 nities Partnership initiative of the Department of  
18 Commerce before the date of the enactment of this  
19 Act shall be deemed a manufacturing community  
20 designated under this subsection if such consortium  
21 is still designated as a manufacturing community by  
22 the Secretary as part of such initiative.

23 (f) RECEIPT OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.—The Sec-  
24 retary may accept amounts transferred to the Secretary

- 1 from the head of another participating agency to carry out
- 2 this section.