Carl Levin
United States Senator

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor of Michigan

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AN OPEN LETTER ON MANUFACTURING TO DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FROM MICHIGAN DEMOCRATS

Dear Democratic Presidential Candidate:

Since President George W. Bush took office, America has lost 3 million manufacturing jobs, and the Administration has not lifted a finger to stop that massive job loss. By contrast, during President Bill Clinton's terms we gained manufacturing jobs.

Presidential leadership matters, and the next Administration must make manufacturing a national priority.

Manufacturing is a critical part of the American economy. It employs more than 14 million workers in the United States and another 6 million in related industries. It drives more than 70 percent of private sector R&D. And it makes the highest contribution to economic growth of any sector.

Manufacturing has given tens of millions of Americans a road to the middle class and a shot at the American dream. But today this part of the American way of life is threatened, as millions more manufacturing jobs hang in the balance.

That's why Michigan Democrats, including the entire Michigan Democratic Congressional Delegation, are putting forward the enclosed American Manufacturing Initiative (AMI) – a comprehensive agenda to revitalize our domestic manufacturing industry and respond to the loss of millions of U.S. manufacturing jobs. The AMI calls for a robust partnership with government, industry, and academia to level the playing field for domestic manufacturers. It would take dramatic action on trade, health care, intellectual property, and many other issues. And it would invest heavily in developing leap-ahead vehicle and alternative energy technologies that are better for the environment and will reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

The AMI recognizes that our manufacturers aren't just competing with companies abroad; they are competing with entire foreign countries. Other countries aggressively support their manufacturers. So should we.

A copy of the AMI is enclosed for your review. We hope that you will endorse it. We look forward to hearing your views in the coming months, both broadly on the importance of manufacturing in America and more specifically on the elements of the AMI.

We thank you for your leadership and wish you safe travels on the campaign trail.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin

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Jennifer M. Granholm

Enclosure: The American Manufacturing Initiative