

Written Testimony of Representative Elizabeth Esty (CT-05)
Make It in America: What's Next?
PANEL 3: The Future of Manufacturing

Thank you, Rep. Hoyer, for convening this hearing and inviting us to testify before you today.

Manufacturing is the backbone of our economy.

In order to secure our nation's strong economic future, we must support our manufacturing and innovation ecosystem.

I come from a third-generation manufacturing family, and I have seen firsthand the creativity and passion that goes in to sustaining and growing a manufacturing business.

Most family manufacturers know that quality employees are the foundation for a successful business.

We cannot strengthen manufacturing without a twenty-first century workforce with the skills employers need.

That's why I proudly introduced the Manufacturing Universities Act of 2015.

This bipartisan bill would establish a Manufacturing Universities program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

This will help colleges and universities with existing engineering programs sharpen their focus on manufacturing, developing joint projects with local manufacturing firms and supporting student internships with community manufacturers.

By increasing the focus on manufacturing at the collegiate level, we can target students who have already shown an aptitude for—and dedication to—science, technology, engineering, and math, the STEM fields that are critical to modern manufacturing.

But securing our manufacturing future requires more than just preparing our students—we must support our existing businesses who want to keep jobs in the U.S.

Connecticut is home to more than 5,000 manufacturers, and many are small businesses competing to survive in tough economic times.

In January, I introduced the American Jobs Matter Act, a bill to support those businesses in Connecticut and across the country.

The American Jobs Matter Act would require the Department of Defense to consider the effect on American jobs when issuing contracts.

Since 2007, our military has spent more than \$150 billion on manufactured goods produced overseas.

This makes no sense.

We should not spend our taxpayer money funding jobs overseas when we could be supporting jobs right here at home.

America's manufacturing future is bright, but it's our job to sustain and protect it.

Despite deep divisions in Congress, we have the opportunity to pass bipartisan policies that support our small businesses, bolster our highly-trained workforce, and maintain our global leadership in research, innovation, and technological advancement.

Every district in the country has manufacturers making high-quality products, teachers sparking their students' interest in STEM education, and employees who want good-paying jobs so they can provide for their families.

I've always worked to find allies—both Republicans and Democrats—dedicated to creating and growing American jobs.

For example, my Brownfields Redevelopment Tax Incentive Reauthorization Act, is a bipartisan effort to clean up former industrial sites and incentivize private-sector investments.

With almost half a million sites nationwide that need revitalization, cleaning up our brownfields and spurring economic development is not a partisan issue.

By rising above partisan politics, and focusing commonsense, practical policies, our bipartisan efforts can stimulate real economic growth.

Together, we can ensure that America remains the global leader in innovation and discovery for generations to come.

Thank you Rep. Hoyer, our distinguished Whip, for holding this important hearing on the Make It In America agenda, and for allowing me to serve on the panel.

I look forward to any questions you or other members may have.