Meeting Minutes

Attendees:  Company
Brian Briggs, Chair  TIC Gums
Del. Ned Carey  Maryland General Assembly
Loretta Eggleston  Boilermakers Local S 50
Suzy Ganz  Lion Brothers
Joanie Gerber  Bkle Manufacturing
Sen. Katherine Klausmeier  Maryland General Assembly
Saundra Lamb  Semforex
Patrick Nolan  Orbital ATK
Bobby Patton  Patton Electronics
Christine Ross  Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Tom Sanders  Coherent Technical Services
Scott Simmons  McCormick & Company
Jim Strong  United Steelworkers District 8
Phil Tulkoff  Tulkoff Food Products
Dr. Willie E. May  University of Maryland College Park

Ex-Officio Members:
R. Michael Gill, Secretary, Department of Commerce

Commerce Staff:
Kris Shock
Todd Sabin
Sharon Markley

I. Commerce Department Welcome

Secretary Gill welcomed members and staff to the inaugural meeting of the Maryland Manufacturers Advisory Board (MMAB). His remarks emphasized the importance of customer service, a culture of “yes”, and talent acquisition as key to successful manufacturing. He reported on the implementation of the More Jobs for Marylanders Act (MJM) and requested Kris Shock, Senior Director, Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship, to provide an overview program. Ms.
Shock stated the program provides attractive tax incentives tied to job creation for a 10-year period; encourages additional investment in new equipment through accelerated and bonus depreciation, and strengthens Maryland’s workforce. After Ms. Shock’s review, Secretary Gill requested the Board provide input on the MJM’s initial form and how it may be improved upon to better support Maryland manufacturing.

II. Chairman's Remarks and Call to Order

Chairman Brian Briggs called the meeting to order and welcomed members and staff. He reviewed the purpose of the MMAB as outlined in House Bill 245. As industry advisors, the Board shall advise the Secretary on manufacturing competitiveness as highlighting in Section 3-108, including: manufacturing attraction, expansion, and retention, workforce preparedness, developing a business climate conducive to growth, the promotion of industry, and create partnerships to promote industry.

III. Introductions

MMAB members gave brief introductions of their backgrounds, companies, and thoughts on key issues facing their companies as manufacturers in Maryland. One of the key themes shared by many members was the need to address better access to a workforce that will support their operations.

IV. Key MMAB Priorities

Chairman Briggs reviewed the primary manufacturing strategies developed in the Department of Commerce 2016 Strategic Plan and the update provided in the subsequent 2017 Progress Report. Manufacturing strategies recommended include: training programs, industrial energy conservation strategies, supply chain review, reshoring, and the State as a national hub in one or two key sub-sectors.

V. Closing Remarks

In respect to members’ time, Chairman Briggs kept closing remarks brief and asked Todd Sabin, Program Manager, Manufacturing for any additional comments for the Good of the Order. Mr. Sabin advised members to complete their Contact Information form included in their packets, and informed them of the Regional Manufacturing Institute (RMI) Manufacturing Day being held on October 6th. The next meeting of the Board will be in December, date to be determined.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25am by Chairman Briggs.