

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 701

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2017

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. CAPITO,
Mr. KING, and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was
read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

A BILL

To improve the competitiveness of United States manufac-
turing by designating and supporting manufacturing
communities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Made in America Man-
5 ufacturing Communities Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY SUPPORT
9 PROGRAM.—The term “Manufacturing Community

1 Support Program” means the program established
2 under section 3(a).

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

7 (3) PARTICIPATING PROGRAM.—The term “par-
8 ticipating program” means a program identified by
9 a participating agency under section 3(c)(1)(C).

10 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Commerce.

12 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM TO DESIGNATE AND SUPPORT MANUFAC-**
13 **TURING COMMUNITIES.**

14 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall es-
15 tablish a program to improve the competitiveness of
16 United States manufacturing—

17 (1) by designating consortiums as manufac-
18 turing communities under subsection (b); and

19 (2) by supporting manufacturing communities,
20 as so designated, under subsection (c).

21 (b) DESIGNATION OF MANUFACTURING COMMU-
22 NITIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
24 graph (7), for purposes of the Manufacturing Com-
25 munity Support Program, the Secretary shall des-

1 designate eligible consortiums as manufacturing com-
 2 munities through a competitive process.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIUMS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium
 5 is a consortium that—

6 (i) represents a region defined by the
 7 consortium in accordance with subpara-
 8 graph (B);

9 (ii) includes at least one—

10 (I) institution of higher edu-
 11 cation;

12 (II) a private sector entity; and

13 (III) a government entity;

14 (iii) may include one or more—

15 (I) private sector partners;

16 (II) institutions of higher edu-
 17 cation;

18 (III) government entities;

19 (IV) economic development and
 20 other community and labor groups;

21 (V) financial institutions; or

22 (VI) utilities;

23 (iv) has, as a lead applicant—

24 (I) a district organization (as de-
 25 fined in section 300.3 of title 13,

1 Code of Federal Regulations, or suc-
2 cessor regulation);

3 (II) an Indian tribe (as defined
4 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
5 mination and Education Assistance
6 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)) or a consor-
7 tium of Indian tribes;

8 (III) a State or a political sub-
9 division of a State, including a special
10 purpose unit of a State or local gov-
11 ernment engaged in economic or in-
12 frastructure development activities, or
13 a consortium of political subdivisions;

14 (IV) an institution of higher edu-
15 cation or a consortium of institutions
16 of higher education; or

17 (V) a public or private nonprofit
18 organization or association that has
19 an application that is supported by a
20 State, a political subdivision of a
21 State, or a native community.

22 (B) REGIONS.—Subject to approval by the
23 Secretary, a consortium may define the region
24 that it represents if the region—

1 (i) is large enough to contain critical
2 elements of the key technologies or supply
3 chain prioritized by the consortium; and

4 (ii) is small enough to enable close
5 collaboration among members of the con-
6 sortium.

7 (3) DURATION.—Each designation under para-
8 graph (1) shall be for a period of two years.

9 (4) RENEWAL.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of an ap-
11 plication submitted under subparagraph (B),
12 the Secretary may renew a designation made
13 under paragraph (1) for up to two additional
14 two-year periods. Any designation as a manu-
15 facturing community or renewal of such des-
16 ignation that is in effect before the date of the
17 enactment of this Act shall count toward the
18 limit set forth in this subparagraph.

19 (B) APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL.—An eli-
20 gible consortium seeking a renewal under sub-
21 paragraph (A) shall submit an application to
22 the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
23 and containing such information as the Sec-
24 retary may require.

1 (C) MODIFICATIONS AUTHORIZED.—The
 2 Secretary may renew a designation under sub-
 3 paragraph (A) for an eligible consortium that—

4 (i) has changed its composition, either
 5 by adding or removing members; or

6 (ii) as part of its application under
 7 subparagraph (B), submits a revision to
 8 the plan submitted under paragraph
 9 (5)(B)(iv) or the strategy submitted under
 10 paragraph (5)(B)(v).

11 (D) EVALUATION FOR RENEWAL.—In de-
 12 termining whether to renew a designation of an
 13 eligible consortium under paragraph (1), the
 14 Secretary shall assess the eligible consortium
 15 based upon—

16 (i) the performance of the consortium
 17 against the terms of the consortium’s most
 18 recent designation under paragraph (1)
 19 and any post-designation awards the con-
 20 sortium may have received;

21 (ii) the progress the consortium has
 22 made with respect to project-specific
 23 metrics the consortium proposed in the
 24 consortium’s application for the most re-
 25 cent designation under paragraph (1), par-

1 ticularly with respect to those metrics that
 2 were designed to help communities track
 3 their own progress;

4 (iii) whether any changes to the com-
 5 position of the eligible consortium or revi-
 6 sions to the plan or strategy described in
 7 subparagraph (C)(ii) would improve the
 8 competitiveness of United States manufac-
 9 turing; and

10 (iv) such other criteria as the Sec-
 11 retary considers appropriate.

12 (5) APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium
 14 seeking a designation under paragraph (1) shall
 15 submit an application to the Secretary at such
 16 time and in such manner as the Secretary may
 17 require.

18 (B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-
 19 mitted to the Secretary under subparagraph (A)
 20 include—

21 (i) a description of the regional
 22 boundaries of the consortium;

23 (ii) a description of the manufacturing
 24 concentration of the consortium, including
 25 an assessment of how the manufacturing

1 concentration of the consortium competi-
 2 tively ranks nationally according to meas-
 3 ures relating to employment, sales, location
 4 quotients for an industry's level of con-
 5 centration, or such other measures as the
 6 Secretary considers appropriate;

7 (iii) an integrated assessment of the
 8 local industrial ecosystem of the region of
 9 the consortium, which may include assess-
 10 ment of workforce and training, supplier
 11 network, research and innovation, infra-
 12 structure or site development, trade and
 13 international investment, operational im-
 14 provements, and capital access components
 15 needed for manufacturing activities in such
 16 region;

17 (iv) an evidence-based plan for devel-
 18 oping components of such ecosystem (se-
 19 lected by the consortium)—

20 (I) by making specific invest-
 21 ments to address gaps in such eco-
 22 system; and

23 (II) by making the manufac-
 24 turing of the region of the consortium
 25 uniquely competitive;

1 (v) a description of the investments
 2 the consortium proposes and the imple-
 3 mentation strategy the consortium intends
 4 to use to address gaps in such ecosystem;

5 (vi) a description of the outcome-
 6 based metrics, benchmarks, and milestones
 7 that the consortium will track and the
 8 evaluation methods the consortium will use
 9 while designated as a manufacturing com-
 10 munity to gauge performance of the strat-
 11 egy of the consortium to improve the man-
 12 ufacturing in the region of the consortium;
 13 and

14 (vii) such other matters as the Sec-
 15 retary considers appropriate.

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

19 (A) whether the applicant demonstrates a
 20 significant level of regional cooperation in their
 21 proposal; and

22 (B) how the manufacturing concentration
 23 of the applicant competitively ranks nationally
 24 according to measures described in paragraph
 25 (5)(B)(ii).

1 (7) CERTAIN COMMUNITIES PREVIOUSLY REC-
2 OGNIZED.—Each consortium that was designated as
3 a manufacturing community by the Secretary in car-
4 rying out the Investing in Manufacturing Commu-
5 nities Partnership initiative of the Department of
6 Commerce before the date of the enactment of this
7 Act shall be deemed a manufacturing community
8 designated under this subsection if such consortium
9 is still designated as a manufacturing community by
10 the Secretary as part of such initiative.

11 (c) SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATED MANUFACTURING
12 COMMUNITIES.—

13 (1) PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
15 subparagraph (D), if a member of a consortium
16 designated as a manufacturing community
17 under subsection (b) seeks financial or technical
18 assistance under a participating program of a
19 participating agency, the head of such agency
20 may give preferential consideration to such
21 member with respect to the awarding of such fi-
22 nancial or technical assistance if—

23 (i) such head considers the award of
24 the financial or technical assistance con-

1 sistent with the economic development
2 strategy of the consortium; and

3 (ii) the member otherwise meets all
4 applicable requirements for the financial or
5 technical assistance.

6 (B) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—The Sec-
7 retary shall invite other Federal agencies to be-
8 come participating agencies of the Manufac-
9 turing Community Support Program.

10 (C) PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS.—The head
11 of each participating agency shall identify all
12 programs administered by such participating
13 agency that are applicable to the Manufacturing
14 Community Support Program.

15 (D) MULTIPLE MEMBERS OF THE SAME
16 CONSORTIUM SEEKING THE SAME FINANCIAL
17 OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—If a participating
19 agency receives applications for the same
20 financial or technical assistance from more
21 than one member of the same consortium
22 designated as a manufacturing community
23 under subsection (b), the head of such
24 agency may determine how preference will
25 be given under subparagraph (A), includ-

1 ing by requiring the consortium to select
2 which of the members should be given
3 preference.

4 (ii) COORDINATION.—If the head of a
5 participating agency determines that more
6 than one member of a consortium should
7 be given preference for financial or tech-
8 nical assistance under subparagraph (A),
9 he or she may require such members to
10 demonstrate coordination with each other
11 in developing their applications for the fi-
12 nancial or technical assistance.

13 (E) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
15 head of each participating agency shall submit
16 a report to the Secretary that specifies how the
17 head will give preferential consideration under
18 subparagraph (A).

19 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
20 may make a Federal point of contact available to
21 each consortium designated as a manufacturing
22 community under subsection (b) to help the mem-
23 bers of the consortium access Federal funds and
24 technical assistance.

25 (3) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Under the Manufac-
 2 turing Community Support Program, the head
 3 of a participating agency may award financial
 4 or technical assistance to a member of a consor-
 5 tium designated as a manufacturing community
 6 under subsection (b) as he or she considers ap-
 7 propriate for purposes of such program and
 8 consistent with the economic development strat-
 9 egy of the consortium.

10 (B) USE OF FUNDS.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of fi-
 12 nancial or technical assistance under sub-
 13 paragraph (A) may use such financial or
 14 technical assistance to support an invest-
 15 ment in an ecosystem that will improve the
 16 competitiveness of United States manufac-
 17 turing.

18 (ii) INVESTMENTS SUPPORTED.—In-
 19 vestments supported under this subpara-
 20 graph may include—

21 (I) infrastructure;

22 (II) access to capital;

23 (III) promotion of exports and
 24 foreign direct investment;

- 1 (IV) equipment or facility up-
2 grades;
3 (V) workforce training or retrain-
4 ing;
5 (VI) energy or process efficiency;
6 (VII) business incubators;
7 (VIII) site preparation;
8 (IX) advanced research;
9 (X) supply chain development;
10 and
11 (XI) small business assistance.

12 (4) COORDINATION.—

13 (A) COORDINATION BY SECRETARY OF
14 COMMERCE.—The Secretary shall coordinate
15 with the heads of the participating agencies to
16 identify programs under paragraph (1)(C).

17 (B) INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION.—The
18 heads of the participating agencies shall coordi-
19 nate with each other—

- 20 (i) to leverage complementary activi-
21 ties, including from non-Federal sources,
22 such as philanthropies; and
23 (ii) to avoid duplication of efforts.

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

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

