

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION**

Full Committee  
Nomination Hearing  
Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.

**REPUBLICAN QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD**

Dr. Arvind Raman

**COVER PAGE**

## **SENATOR BERNIE MORENO (R-OH)**

1. Do you support the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) model, and do you believe the program effectively supports small and medium-sized manufacturers across the United States?

*Answer:* The MEP program was established over 30 years ago to increase the productivity and technological performance of American small and medium manufacturing enterprises. Not being in the role yet, I do not have the necessary historical data to opine on whether or not the current MEP model represents maximal effective use of taxpayer dollars to meet the law's objectives. If confirmed, I will evaluate how NIST can best use the resources provided by Congress under this law to most effectively enhance the productivity and technological performance of U.S. small and medium manufacturers, in alignment with the President's priorities for U.S. leadership in critical and emerging technologies.

2. If confirmed, do you commit to reviewing the current federal funding suspension impacting Ohio's MEP centers?
  - a. If confirmed, will you ensure, absent any potential illegalities, that funding is reinstated promptly once the Office of Inspector General's audit is completed and any issues are resolved?

*Answer:* If I am confirmed, I look forward to working with you on the specifics of this issue and to keep you and your staff updated as appropriate.

3. If confirmed, will you support continuing the MEP program as part as a core component of NIST's mission to strengthen the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing?

*Answer:* If confirmed, I will remain fully committed to enhancing the productivity and technological performance of U.S. small and medium sized manufacturers, as required by law and in alignment with the President's priorities for U.S. leadership in critical and emerging technologies.

## **SENATOR TIM SHEEHY (R-MT)**

- 1.) Supporting American manufacturing is a key priority for President Trump and Congress, and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) has helped small and medium-sized Montana manufacturers compete in the competitive global marketplace. Will you commit to ensuring consultation with and approval by Congress before any reorganization of MEP?

*Answer:* If confirmed, I will be happy to work with your office to evaluate how NIST can best use the resources provided by Congress to most effectively enhance the productivity and technological performance of U.S. small and medium sized manufacturers, in alignment with the President's priorities for U.S. leadership in critical and emerging technologies that will drive our future competitiveness.

- 2.) Will you commit to hiring a permanent MEP Director to execute the program consistent with congressional intent?

*Answer:* While I have testified about my priorities, if confirmed, it is premature to discuss specific personnel actions before I have a chance to confer with NIST, the Department, and the Secretary.