AMENDMENT NO._______  Calendar No._______

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 3084

To invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

Referred to the Committee on ___________ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. Gillibrand

Viz:

1 At the end of title V, add the following:

2 SEC. 503. MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES.

3 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the

4 “Made in America Manufacturing Communities Act of

5 2016”.

6 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The

8 term “institution of higher education” has the

9 meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher

MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

PROGRAM.—The term "Manufacturing Community Support Program" means the program established under subsection (c).

PARTICIPATING AGENCY.—The term "participating agency" means a Federal agency that elects to participate in the Manufacturing Community Support Program.

PARTICIPATING PROGRAM.—The term "participating program" means a program identified by a participating agency under subsection (d)(1)(C).

SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

PROGRAM TO DESIGNATE AND SUPPORT MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES.—The Secretary shall establish a program to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by—

(1) designating consortiums as manufacturing communities under subsection (e); and

(2) supporting manufacturing communities, as so designated, under subsection (d).

SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATED MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES.—

(1) PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.—
3

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), if a member of a consortium designated as a manufacturing community under subsection (e) seeks financial or technical assistance under a participating program of a participating agency, the head of such agency may give preferential consideration to such member with respect to the awarding of such financial or technical assistance if—

(i) such head considers the award of the financial or technical assistance consistent with the economic development strategy of the consortium; and

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

(B) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall invite other Federal agencies to become participating agencies of the Manufacturing Community Support Program.

(C) PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS.—The head of each participating agency shall identify all programs administered by such participating agency that are applicable to the Manufacturing Community Support Program.
(D) MULTIPLE MEMBERS OF THE SAME
CONsortIUM SEEKING THE SAME FINANCIAL
OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a participating
agency receives applications for the same
financial or technical assistance from more
than 1 member of the same consortium
designated as a manufacturing community
under subsection (e), the head of such
agency may determine how preference will
be given under subparagraph (A), includ-
ing by requiring the consortium to select
which of the members should be given
preference.

(ii) COORDINATION.—If the head of a
participating agency determines that more
than 1 member of a consortium should be
given preference under subparagraph (A)
for financial or technical assistance, he or
she may require such members to dem-
donstrate coordination with each other in
developing their applications for the finan-
cial or technical assistance.

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

(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may make a Federal point of contact available to each consortium designated as a manufacturing community under subsection (e) to help the members of the consortium access Federal funds and technical assistance.

(3) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Under the Manufacturing Community Support Program, the head of a participating agency may award financial or technical assistance to a member of a consortium designated as a manufacturing community under subsection (e) as he or she considers appropriate for purposes of such program and consistent with the economic development strategy of the consortium.

(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of financial or technical assistance under subparagraph (A) may use such financial or technical assistance to support an invest-
ement in an ecosystem that will improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing.

(ii) INVESTMENTS SUPPORTED.—Investments supported under this subparagraph may include—

(I) infrastructure;

(II) access to capital;

(III) promotion of exports and foreign direct investment;

(IV) equipment or facility upgrades;

(V) workforce training or retraining;

(VI) energy or process efficiency;

(VII) business incubators;

(VIII) site preparation;

(IX) advanced research; and

(X) supply chain development; and

(4) COORDINATION.—

(A) COORDINATION BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the heads of the participating agencies to identify programs under paragraph (1)(C)(i).
(B) Inter-Agency Coordination.—The heads of the participating agencies shall coordinate with each other—

(i) to leverage complementary activities, including from non-Federal sources, such as philanthropies; and

(ii) to avoid duplication of efforts.

(e) Designation of Manufacturing Communities.—

(1) In General.—Except as provided in paragraph (7), for purposes of the Manufacturing Community Support Program, the Secretary shall designate eligible consortia (as described in paragraph (2)) as manufacturing communities through a competitive process.

(2) Eligible Consortia.—

(A) In General.—An eligible consortium is a consortium that—

(i) represents a region defined by the consortium in accordance with subparagraph (B);

(ii) includes at least 1—

(I) institution of higher education;

(II) a private sector entity; and
8

(III) a government entity;

(iii) may include 1 or more—

(I) private sector partners;

(II) institutions of higher education;

(III) government entities;

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

(V) financial institutions; or

(VI) utilities;

(iv) has, as a lead applicant—

(I) a district organization (as defined in section 300.3 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulation);

(II) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)) or a consortium of Indian tribes;

(III) a State or a political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or in-
frastructure development activities, or
a consortium of political subdivisions;

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

(V) a public or private nonprofit
organization or association that is set-
up in cooperation with officials of a
political subdivision of a State, or a na-
tive community.

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

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

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

(3) DURATION.—Each designation under para-
graph (1) shall be for a period of 2 years.

(4) RENEWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of an ap-
plication submitted under subparagraph (B),
the Secretary may renew a designation made
under paragraph (1) for up to 2 additional 2-
year periods. Any designation as a manufacturing community or renewal of such designation that is in effect before the date of the enactment of this Act shall count toward the limit set forth in this subparagraph.

(B) APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL.—An eligible consortium seeking a renewal under subparagraph (A) shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(C) MODIFICATIONS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may renew a designation under subparagraph (A) for an eligible consortium that—

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

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

(D) EVALUATION FOR RENEWAL.—In determining whether to renew a designation of an eligible consortium under paragraph (1), the
Secretary shall assess the eligible consortium based upon—

(i) the performance of the consortium against the terms of the consortium's most recent designation under paragraph (1) and any post-designation awards the consortium may have received;

(ii) the progress the consortium has made with respect to project-specific metrics the consortium proposed in the consortium's application for the most recent designation under paragraph (1), particularly with respect to those metrics that were designed to help communities track their own progress;

(iii) whether any changes to the composition of the eligible consortium or revisions to the plan or strategy described in subparagraph (C)(ii) would improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing; and

(iv) such other criteria as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(5) APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium seeking a designation under paragraph (1) shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted to the Secretary under subparagraph (A) include—

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

(ii) a description of the manufacturing concentration of the consortium, including an assessment of how the manufacturing concentration of the consortium competitively ranks nationally according to measures relating to employment, sales, location quotients for an industry's level of concentration, or such other measures as the Secretary considers appropriate;

(iii) an integrated assessment of the local industrial ecosystem of the region of the consortium, which may include assessment of workforce and training, supplier network, research and innovation, infrastructure or site development, trade and
international investment, operational improvements, and capital access components needed for manufacturing activities in such region;

(iv) an evidence-based plan for developing components of such ecosystem (selected by the consortium) by making—

(I) specific investments to address gaps in such ecosystem; and

(II) the manufacturing of the region of the consortium uniquely competitive;

(v) a description of the investments the consortium proposes and the implementation strategy the consortium intends to use to address gaps in such ecosystem;

(vi) a description of the outcome-based metrics, benchmarks, and milestones that the consortium will track and the evaluation methods the consortium will use while designated as a manufacturing community to gauge performance of the strategy of the consortium to improve the manufacturing in the region of the consortium; and
(vii) such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(6) Evaluation of applications.—The Secretary shall evaluate each application received under paragraph (5) to determine—

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

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

(7) Certain communities previously recognized.—Each consortium that was designated as a manufacturing community by the Secretary in carrying out the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership initiative of the Department of Commerce before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be deemed a manufacturing community designated under this subsection if such consortium is still designated as a manufacturing community by the Secretary as part of such initiative.

(f) Receipt of transferred funds.—The Secretary may accept amounts transferred to the Secretary
1 from the head of another participating agency to carry out
2 this section.