

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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 _____

A BILL

To improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing 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 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 (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;

14

- 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.