

2014 -- H 7785

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LC005085
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S VISION FOR 21ST CENTURY MANUFACTURING
AND TRADE IN AMERICA AND THE DESIGNATION OF RHODE ISLAND AS A
"MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY"

Introduced By: Representatives Marshall, Mattiello, Serpa, Costantino, and DeSimone

Date Introduced: March 04, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has among the oldest and most deeply ingrained
2 manufacturing cultures in America, beginning in 1793, when Samuel Slater opened the first
3 successful factory in the United States in the City of Pawtucket; and

4 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is uniquely and strategically positioned to take advantage of
5 both transatlantic trade and the resurgence in manufacturing; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is geographically positioned 150 miles east of the Port of New
7 York, providing for shorter and less expensive transatlantic shipping from Europe; and

8 WHEREAS, Rhode Island hosts two major ports, the Port of Providence, and the Port of
9 Davisville at Quonset, which was a former Navy Base, now a successful Business Park; and

10 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation seeks to secure funding to
11 implement a Design and Manufacturing Center that will accelerate the resurgence in
12 manufacturing and trade in Rhode Island; and

13 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Design and Manufacturing Center will consist of three
14 primary components: Manufacturing Design and Engineering and Market Analysis; Technology
15 Development and Applications; and Workforce Training; and

16 WHEREAS, Center Partners include manufacturers, entrepreneurs, institutions of higher
17 education, state agencies, and federal research and development centers in the region; and

18 WHEREAS, This collaboration aims to bring together partners knowledgeable in the
19 existing manufacturing and supply line landscape, the workforce needs of business, curriculum

1 development, workforce training, product design, entrepreneurship, R&D, and the maritime
2 infrastructure of the region in order to ensure that the various actors in the public and private
3 sectors that are engaged in manufacturing and trade are consistently on the same page; and

4 WHEREAS, With the creation of the Rhode Island Design and Manufacturing Center, for
5 the first time, private investors, entrepreneurs, and the general public will have a single voice that
6 can speak and act with confidence and clarity as to exactly what manufacturing opportunities
7 exist in the region, and what efforts are ongoing to expand them; and

8 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation is preparing a Phase II Grant
9 proposal to the United States Economic Development Administration under a program that would
10 designate Rhode Island as a "Manufacturing Community," thereby providing for priority funding
11 from over thirteen federal agencies with the combined financial resource of over \$1.3 billion;
12 now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
14 Providence Plantations hereby supports the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation's Phase II Grant
15 proposal to the United States Economic Development Administration that would designate Rhode
16 Island as a "Manufacturing Community"; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully requests our state's Congressional
18 Delegation to pursue and endorse Rhode Island being designated as a "Manufacturing
19 Community"; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, members of
22 Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the
23 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the Director of the Rhode Island
24 Commerce Corporation.

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