

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC  
APRIL 20-23, 2026**

**PACIFIC CONTESTED LOGISTICS MANUFACTURING READINESS INITIATIVE**

**ISSUE:** The United States National Defense depends on the ability to rapidly manufacture critical systems, including munitions, propulsion, autonomous platforms, and space components. While many technologies are mature, gaps in manufacturing processes, production qualification, and supply chains slow deployment, limit surge capacity, and reduce resilience in contested environments. Workforce shortages further constrain manufacturers' ability to scale production. These manufacturing gaps directly limit the Department of Defense's ability to sustain contested logistics in the Indo-Pacific, where extended supply lines and high-tempo operations require rapid, resilient production.

**ACTION:** The Monday Morning Group urges Congress to provide a \$10.6 million increase to Defense-Wide Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E), Program Element 0603680D8Z (Manufacturing Science and Technology) to support a consortium-based manufacturing acceleration initiative led by America Makes. This program will focus on advancing production readiness, strengthening supply chains, and developing a skilled manufacturing workforce in Southern California.

**BACKGROUND:** Past defense manufacturing investments have produced innovative technologies, but many fail to reach production because readiness, workforce capacity, and supply chain support are not addressed together. Gaps in manufacturing readiness slow deployment, reduce deterrence, and limit sustainment during crises.

This initiative builds on proven United States Manufacturing Infrastructure and Consortium models to close the gap between innovation and production. By advancing critical processes, qualifying them for defense use, upgrading American companies, and training a skilled workforce, the program strengthens national defense while creating high-wage jobs in Southern California. The initiative is expected to reduce production lead times for critical components and increase domestic surge capacity for contested logistics scenarios. These investments will support measurable defense outcomes, including faster qualification cycles, reduced single-point supply chain vulnerabilities, and a trained workforce ready to support near-term production demands.

America Makes is uniquely positioned to lead this effort because it integrates government, industry, and academia through an existing national manufacturing ecosystem designed specifically to accelerate defense-relevant production readiness.

If approved, the funding will be allocated as follows:

- \$5.3 million – Manufacturing Readiness Level (MRL) Advancement: Advance 3-5 critical manufacturing processes to production-ready (MRL 7), create three new manufacturing opportunities, and connect inventors with U.S. manufacturers.
- \$3.1 million – Production Qualification & Test Integration: Qualify 2-3 components or processes for defense programs, integrate outputs with test infrastructure, and upgrade U.S. companies with necessary tools and certifications.
- \$1.2 million – Distributed Manufacturing & Supply Chain Development: Build a domestic, distributed supply chain to reduce single points of failure and enable surge production under contested conditions.
- \$1.0 million – Workforce Development: Train and credential 150 new manufacturing technicians, embedding workforce development into active production projects.

This initiative leverages an existing Manufacturing Innovation Institute for rapid startup, competitive project selection, and cost-sharing with industry without creating new facilities or offices.