

**Moderator: Kate Sigler**  
**December 12, 2008**  
**11:00 am CT**

Coordinator: Thank you for holding. Parties' lines will be muted for the duration of today's conference. This call is being recorded, if you have any objections you may disconnect. I'd like to introduce your speaker Miss Kate Sigler.

Kate Sigler: Hi, this is Kate Sigler with the Department of Commerce. I will take a quick roll call and then hand it over to the Chair of the Council, Fred Keller. Fred, are you on the line?

Fred Keller: I am indeed.

Kate Sigler: Kellie Johnson?

Kellie Johnson: Present.

Kate Sigler: Dean Bartles?

Dean Bartles: Present.

Kate Sigler: John Cantlin?

John Cantlin: Here.

Kate Sigler: Dan DiMicco. Dan Holmes

Dan Holmes: Here.

Kate Sigler: And then I believe Dave Frengel is on the line for Bill Jones.

Dave Frengel: Correct, sorry Bill can't be here.

Kate Sigler: Okay, of course. Peter Kamenstein

Peter Kamenstein: Here.

Kate Sigler: Jason Speer

Jason Speer: Here.

Kate Sigler: Did I miss any of the members?

Mike Nowak: Yeah, Mike Nowak is here.

Kate Sigler: Oh, thanks, Mike.

Fred Keller: Did you get John Cantlin?

Kate Sigler: Yes.

Fred Keller: Okay.

Kate Sigler: Fred, I believe we're ready to begin.

Fred Keller: All right great. Thank you all for taking the time to be with us today and be on the call. I'd like to call the meeting to order officially and just open it up by saying that this is the culmination of some work we've been doing since

September to propose a letter of recommendation outlining our manufacturing priorities for the next administration.

And I want to Kellie to present the report in a minute. But first I'd like to open it up to our Assistant Secretary Sutton to make some remarks. Woody?

Woody Sutton: Well thank you very much, Fred. And on behalf of the Secretary, I want to thank each and every one of you for your service and your volunteer spirit and your participation in the Manufacturing Council. In the short time I've been here I've really enjoyed our work together and I really appreciate your input. And as you all know you are a fully chartered organization out through April of 2010 and so I look forward to hearing of your great exploits on into the next administration.

This is obviously my last public meeting with you all and I just want to also relay my personal thanks to each and every one of you for your participation. And that concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman.

Fred Keller: Well thank you, Woody. And we certainly want to thank you for your leadership and your enthusiasm that you've put into this group; it's terrific, we just really appreciate all that you've done for us.

Woody Sutton: Thank you.

Fred Keller: Kellie, would you like to present the letter? This is Kellie Johnson, Vice Chair of the Council.

Kellie Johnson: I'd be happy to. Thank you, Fred. And before I present the transition letter I would first like to say since this is our last public meeting that it's been a real privilege to serve Secretary Gutierrez and Secretary Sutton. And, Woody,

you have just brought a tremendous amount of positive energy and excitement to this organization and you have been an inspiring leader to us and I personally just want to thank you for your service. Thank you.

Woody Sutton: Thanks.

Kellie Johnson: The Manufacturing Council is an appointed group of advisors to council the Secretary of Commerce on manufacturing policy. And because our country is facing the most serious economic crisis of the last half century the urgency of the nation's manufacturing situation has prompted us to communicate our recommendations and priorities for manufacturing at this time to the Secretary rather than waiting until the new Secretary is confirmed.

The Manufacturing Council believes it's time to get back to basics if we're going to get our economy back on track and rebuild the manufacturing sector as our national wealth creation engine. Within our transition letter the Manufacturing Council has outlined and identified bold, new, national economic strategies to harness the power of domestic manufacturing for economic revitalization.

We're in the situation we are today in part because we've made bets on speculative financial themes: the tech bubble of 2000, 2002 and today's real estate bubble amongst others instead of investing in the proven wealth creation machine of the manufacturing sector.

Within the transition letter the Council has identified two top priorities and they include - the first is a commitment to energy independence; we must commit our country to an Apollo-like effort to achieve energy independence and reduce our dependent on imported fossil fuels.

And the second priority is to correct trade imbalances, failed trade policies of the last two decades we believe must be reversed; they've produced record manufacturing trade deficits that are unsustainable and create dependence on foreign borrowing.

In addition there are two areas we believe need broad national initiatives that are required to move manufacturing forward and that includes building a skilled workforce and eliminating domestic cost disadvantages. For each one of these four strategies we have goals and detailed recommendations within the transition letter.

Would you like me to go into any further detail, Fred?

Fred Keller: That's fine, Kellie. We could note that this is something that we've had a chance to deliberate over as a Council and I'd open up the comments from the floor at this point from the other Council members. Any comments?

Peter Kamenstein: I'd just make a motion that we approve the letter as presented by Kellie.

Fred Keller: Good that there's support.

John Cantlin: I'll second it, John Cantlin.

Fred Keller: Good, John. And is there further discussion? Other comments, questions?

Man: I think it's good - I think it turned out to be a really good letter.

Dan Holmes: Yeah, this is Dan Holmes; I'm comfortable with it.

Fred Keller: Good.

Kellie Johnson: I particularly like the section on how we got to where we are today and the importance of stressing the fact that manufacturing really is the engine to our economy and it has let us help create our middle class and our quality of life and that we really need to stress the importance of manufacturing being the wealth creator.

Fred Keller: Yeah I was privileged to be able to share some of the contents with our Manufacturing Council here in west Michigan and they were very excited about this - potential of being able to have this as a major thrust for us going forward. So I think we've got something here that's going to be useful to not just the Secretary but to others as well.

So is there any other comments? Hearing none, we'll call to question; those in favor, agree by saying aye.

Man: Aye.

Man: Aye.

Kellie Johnson: Aye.

Man: Aye.

Man: Aye.

Fred Keller: Opposed? Motion carries and we will submit this letter to the Secretary.

Kellie Johnson: Excellent.

Fred Keller: Any other business that people feel we need to bring before this Council? I would mention that we have had the opportunity of a briefing in Washington a couple of weeks ago. And Kate is there a potential for a further briefing maybe by phone?

Kate Sigler: Yes I'm looking into it with Sean Reilly, the Senior Advisor to the Secretary who is handling this issue for the Department to see if I can schedule something for next week.

Fred Keller: Is there any - is there any interest in doing that?

Man: I'd be interested, Fred.

Man: Sure.

John Cantlin: Likewise.

Man: Yes.

Fred Keller: All right, it sounds like there's interest. Kate, if you'll coordinate that I'd appreciate it. That pretty much concludes our business. Is there any parting comments, Woody?

Woody Sutton: No other than you will have an opportunity here in the near future to talk with the transition people who are here in the International Trade Administration working with us on turnover. And also I'd like to, from all of us here at the Manufacturing and Services, wish all of you a very safe and happy holiday season.

Fred Keller: Woody, thank you again; it's just been such an honor to be working with you and your team there and you've really helped us coalesce as a team here as well. So thank you very much for that. And I'm sure I extend the wishes of the entire Council to you and the Department of Commerce team for a wonderful holiday season.

Woody Sutton: Thanks, Fred.

Fred Keller: All right, thank you very much. This concludes. Is there a motion for dismissal?

Man: Motion.

Fred Keller: Support?

Man: I support.

Man: We all support it.

Fred Keller: My assumption is we're all in favor. All in favor?

Man: Aye.

Man: Aye.

Man: Aye.

Fred Keller: This meeting stands adjourned. Thank you so much.

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