Company letterhead and logo

Date

Return address

Re: SB 518 Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment Sales Tax Exemption by Senator Hukill

Dear Senator (Name):

I am writing to ask for your support on SB 518 by Senator Hukill when it comes before you for consideration.

Florida would like to position itself as a hub for manufacturing in the Southeast. While we are making strides in this area, our manufacturing sales tax structure needs some work.

Economic models will tell you that when taxes are lowered, businesses thrive. Businesses hire more people, investments are multiplied through the economy and they invest in capital, research and development and their communities.

We have an odd situation in Florida relative to the sales taxes for manufacturers which leaves an unlevel playing field both within the state and outside the state. Our existing manufacturers must show a 5% productivity increase in order to receive a sales tax exemption on the machinery and equipment they buy. This is a tax that our competing states like Texas, Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina don’t have to pay. Sixty percent of our manufacturers are small businesses. Paperwork, computation, auditing and the state’s use of the tax money while navigating the tax refund process are all burdensome to these small manufacturers.

If Florida wants to diversify its economy, provide well-playing manufacturing jobs for citizens, and become known for its vibrant business environment, it should remove this last remnant of sales tax from manufacturing and join the ranks of the competing states.

Please support SB 518.

Sincerely,

Name