



December 8, 2011

Ms. Debra Lyons
VP-Community & Economic Development
ACT, Inc. - Workforce Development Division
3455 Peachtree Road, Fifth Floor
Atlanta, GA 30326

RE: South Carolina Application for ACT's Certified Work Ready Communities Initiative

Dear Ms. Lyons:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance supporting the State of South Carolina's application for ACT's Certified Work Ready Communities Initiative. We are pleased to serve as the lead statewide business organization in this effort, and we are committed to its success.

The SCMA has a long history of advocacy for the manufacturing community in South Carolina. For more than 110 years, this organization has taken the lead on ensuring that our State creates and maintains the best possible environment for manufacturing to flourish. We represent more than 400 facilities across the State with as few as three employees and as many as 8000. SCMA members are in every industrial sector, producing world class products such as the BMW X-5, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, advanced weaponry for the United States military, fabric, robotics, plastics, paper, household products, and so much more.

Our agenda typically contains many items, but none are more important to us than the development of South Carolina's workforce. We know that the biggest infrastructure challenge this State will face over the next two decades will not be roads or bridges but rather the development of a large core of trained and trainable associates for our facilities. Our factories are state-of-the-art operations with extremely sophisticated machinery and processes. We need highly skilled workers, and in return, we pay substantial wages with outstanding benefits packages. The opportunities are there; we need to train South Carolinians to take advantage of them.

The SCMA enthusiastically supports this application and looks forward to playing a key role in its implementation. If you have any questions, or if we can provide any additional information to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lewis F. Gossett".

Lewis F. Gossett
President and CEO