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Allegheny Conference Endorses Governor's Manufacturing Advisory Council's Recommendations to Encourage Growth in Manufacturing

New Report Highlights Importance and Potential of Manufacturing As An Economic Driver in Pennsylvania

(PITTSBURGH – Aug. 21, 2012) – Manufacturing is a key to Pennsylvania's future prosperity, and a report released today by The Governor's Manufacturing Advisory Council's outlines recommendations that manufacturers specifically, working alongside public and private sector partners, need to take to improve the business climate for manufacturing and ensure that young people are aware of the career opportunities in this sector. Representing southwestern Pennsylvania's business community, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development endorses the report and its recommendations.

"No place in the country better understands the importance of manufacturing to prosperity than southwestern Pennsylvania. Faced with the collapse of our industrial base 30 years ago, we had to re-tool and re-train. For several years now our manufacturing sector has outperformed the national average in terms of employment and productivity, but there is much more we could do with the right policy environment in Harrisburg and a ready and willing workforce. The new report underscores the critical importance of manufacturing to prosperity and details the steps the Commonwealth and manufacturers need to take to build on our foundation and maintain our leadership in the future," said Dennis Yablonsky, chief executive officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

"The good news is that manufacturers are investing in the future here. Allegheny Technologies and United States Steel Corporation are making substantial investments in their facilities in Brackenridge and Clairton. Last week the U.S. Department of Defense awarded a \$30 million grant to create a National Additive Manufacturing Institute that will accelerate innovation in manufacturing from Cleveland to Morgantown. And the petrochemical industry is evaluating investments in our region to capitalize on our rich 'wet' shale gas reserves. The Pittsburgh region is a recognized world leader when it comes to manufacturing know-how. State government has a critical role to play to improve workforce development, open new markets and make government work better for manufacturers. With such a commitment this region can become the heart of a new American industrial economy," said Barbara McNees, president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference.

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About the Allegheny Conference

The Allegheny Conference and its affiliates, the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to improve the economy and the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. Learn more at www.alleghenyconference.org

About the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, advocates for business climate improvements to create an even more competitive regional environment for new and existing businesses. Learn more at www.pittsburghchamber.org