



For Immediate Release

April 21, 2011

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Senator Blumenthal and Congressman Murphy Join Manufacturers at Industry Roundtable

(Waterbury, Connecticut) – Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congressman Chris Murphy joined manufacturers at the Connecticut Manufacturing Coalition roundtable this morning to learn more about the business issues the industry is facing.

The roundtable, held at the Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut, is a monthly gathering of industry leaders comprised of plant tours and networking opportunities. During today's event, Senator Blumenthal and Congressman Murphy joined the 60 attendees, who represent 40 manufacturing companies, reiterating their commitment to fight for policies, on the federal level, that will grow industry and prevent the further erosion of the state's manufacturing base.

Senator Blumenthal and Congressman Murphy unveiled the 2011 Survey of Connecticut Manufacturers, a joint effort to garner industry facts about the current state of the business climate and to provide the legislators with ideas and perspectives for the future of Connecticut's manufacturing community. Following the close of the survey, the feedback will be compiled into a report to be shared with the industry and its supporters. Survey details and a link for manufacturers to participate can be found at <http://bit.ly/2011SurveyMfg>.

"CONNSTEP, and the members of the coalition, are happy to support the survey as we all know the anecdotal statistics on the current state of the industry. However, as critical as it is for manufacturers to listen to the voice of the customer, so it is for our elected officials," stated Bonnie Del Conte, President of CONNSTEP, "we applaud their efforts and believe it will set a foundation for future conversations surrounding this most important business sector."

The Connecticut Manufacturing Coalition is a working group of organizations including the Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut (MAC), Smaller Manufacturers Association of CT (SMA), the New Haven Manufacturers Association (NHMA) and CONNSTEP, formed to better serve the needs of the Connecticut manufacturing community. Through joint resources, the coalition will provide educational and networking opportunities and speak with one voice on legislative matters vital to the health and vitality of the manufacturing industry within the state. For more information, please visit <http://www.connstep.org/page/29-roundtables>.

About CONNSTEP

CONNSTEP's mission is to help Connecticut manufacturers apply advanced technology and modern management methodologies to become more competitive. Since 1994, CONNSTEP's innovative programs have helped hundreds of manufacturers annually, and have assisted in the creation or retention of thousands of jobs. CONNSTEP's team of manufacturing specialists provides business growth, technical and process improvement assistance. Core service areas include Lean Solutions, Enterprise Growth Services, Environmental Management/Clean Manufacturing, Quality Management Systems, Business Assessments and Culture and Change Management Solutions. CONNSTEP is sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and the U.S. Department of Commerce through the national Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program in the National Institute of Standards and Technology.