

April 3, 2014

Barry Broome  
President and CEO  
Greater Phoenix Economic Council  
2 N Central Ave Suite 2500

Dear Mr. Broome:

I am pleased to provide a letter in support of GPEC's efforts on advancing a broad economic development agenda for the Greater Phoenix region. Your application to be recognized as a *Manufacturing Community* through the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership, a natural extension of the successful planning grant work, will significantly enable continued growth and success. The City of Maricopa is extremely excited about the potential impact of this designation and we look forward to working closely with you as a community partner in the very near future.

Maricopa has been Arizona's fastest growing community since incorporating in October 2003. Over the past decade, it has transformed from a quiet town of under 5,000 residents to a bustling city of more than 46,000. Like most new cities, the majority of Maricopa residents are commuters, traveling to other Greater Phoenix communities every day for work. The City's goal since incorporation has been to develop a sustainable local economy that provides residents quality job opportunities close to home. We recognize the critical importance of manufacturing to increasing export activity and growing both our local and regional economies. It is a key target industry within our economic development strategy.

The City has made significant investments in long-term projects to promote manufacturing, including development of our city-owned Estrella Gin Business Park site and launch of the Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship (MCE), a small business incubator. The City received a \$50,000 grant through USDA's Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program to help launch MCE and has applied for RBEG funds to seed a revolving loan fund. We anticipate seeking additional federal funds to support these and other economic development initiatives. By providing preference for federal grant awards, this Manufacturing Community designation has the potential to significantly enhance our manufacturing attraction and expansion efforts by funding key infrastructure projects and business assistance programs much sooner than we would otherwise be able.

As an active member of the participating economic region, the City of Maricopa is committed to working closely with GPEC and ASU to advance the breadth and depth of manufacturing in Greater Phoenix. This will result in significant impact to our community.

Sincerely,



Mayor Christian Price  
City of Maricopa