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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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Michael Marlowe, CNM, Client Manager  
Director of Government Relations  
Automation Federation  
67 Alexander Drive  
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To the Automation Federation and Member Organizations:

Our country is facing a crisis with the looming deficit of skilled automation professionals available to fill vital jobs in our nation's industrial base as the current skilled professional workforce begins to retire.

To stay competitive in a global economy, American industry will need a new generation of automation professionals with more broad technical and business knowledge to backfill these vital positions vacated by baby-boom retirements. This "Next Generation" will not have the benefit of gaining years of experience in an evolving automation profession, as did their predecessors. On the near horizon, they will be needed to fill and expand the scope of strategic jobs throughout the manufacturing sector of our country. We need to create more of these uniquely qualified men and women and increase awareness of this vital profession.

I applaud the Automation Federation for its efforts to strengthen and grow the ranks of automation professionals now and for the future. The Federation's workforce development initiatives will help maintain the future viability and competitive health of our nation's manufacturing sector.

As a member of the House Science and Technology Committee, I appreciate the resources they make available my staff, and Members of Congress regarding manufacturing and automation issues before Congress.

Sincerely,



W. Todd Akin