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**MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION HONORS GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATORS FOR
MANUFACTURING LEADERSHIP**

TALLAHASSEE, FL.— The Manufacturers Association of Florida (MAF) awarded Governor Rick Scott, Senator Dorothy Hukill, and Representative MaryLynn Magar with the Manufacturing Legislative Excellence Awards following the Annual Manufacturing Summit on November 17, 2016. The award is given to state leaders and legislators who consistently support MAF’s mission of improving the business climate for Florida manufacturers.

Governor Scott announced his \$1 billion tax package for the 2016 session at MAF’s Annual Summit in 2015. The plan included the permanent elimination of the sales tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment. With both Senator Hukill and Representative Magar filing bills on the manufacturing sales tax exemption, they each became champions for the industry. The successful passage of the tax exemption is expected to save the industry \$77 million per year. It is already allowing Florida businesses the opportunity to expand, create new positions of employment, enter new markets and invest in capital equipment.

“Florida is one of the highest producing states for manufacturing and our state’s leadership has taken great steps to ensure our businesses remain competitive,” said Nancy Stephens, Executive Director. “In the 2016 legislative session, Governor Scott, Senator Hukill, and Representative Magar fought tirelessly for the needs of our manufacturers. Their leadership has ensured the industry will see additional growth, revenue, and job creation in the coming years.”

The industry presently employs more than 360,000 Floridians and has added more than 14,000 jobs over the year. “These employees and business owners rely on our government leaders to pass and implement policies that will allow Florida to rise to the top of the field,” said Stephens. “This year we witnessed three of the industry’s advocates fight for not only manufacturers, but for Florida’s future and economic sustainability.”

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About the Manufacturers Association of Florida (MAF)

The MAF was formed in 2006 to improve the business climate for manufacturers in Florida. There are some 19,000 manufacturers in Florida investing in new technology, employing highly skilled workers and competing globally. For more information about MAF, visit www.mafmfg.com.