



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2016

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MAF APPLAUDS SENATE COMMERCE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Manufacturers Association of Florida (MAF) applauds the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee for passing SB 98, Sales Tax Exemption for Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment. The bill, sponsored by Senator Dorothy Hukill, will make permanent the temporary sales tax exemption granted on manufacturing machinery and equipment in 2014.

“Florida is an expanding market for manufacturers and the support of their legislators helps make their growth a reality,” said Nancy Stephens, Executive Director of MAF. “This exemption enables manufacturers to purchase high-tech equipment, grow their business and add positions to their company. It makes Florida a competitive state and the vote of support by the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee shows their level of investment back into their communities and Florida’s families.”

The Committee heard from manufacturer Brain Rist, President and CEO of Storm Smart Industries in Fort Myers, Florida. “After the passage of the temporary sales tax exemption in 2014, Storm Smart Industries was able to purchase a \$400,000 piece of equipment,” said Rist. “This allowed our company to expand and we added 25 positions as a result. Moving forward, a permanent exemption would allow us to buy more equipment and repeat the process.”

The temporary sales tax exemption on manufacturing machinery and equipment was passed by the Florida legislature in 2014 and will expire in 2017. “The vote today shows the 321,000 Floridians employed in manufacturing that their legislators are taking action to secure a strong future for their families,” said Stephens. “For the past 12 consecutive months, manufacturing has added 5,000 new jobs to Florida and the permanent sales tax exemption on manufacturing machinery and equipment will allow this trend to continue.”

We applaud Senator Hukill and Rep. Magar for filing legislation for the 2016 Session that would make permanent the temporary sales tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment. We encourage all the members of the Florida Legislature to support the manufacturing industry so we can secure even more jobs and diversify Florida’s economy.

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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.