



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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Tallahassee---The Manufacturers Association of Florida held their 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Manufacturers Summit & Marketplace in West Palm Beach on November 4-5. During the event, MAF announced the release of an independent study completed by Florida TaxWatch on the importance of the sales tax exemption on manufacturing machinery and equipment to Florida’s economy.

“Florida manufacturing businesses are a vital part of the state and local economies in the Sunshine State, providing high paying jobs to Floridians and helping improve the state’s exports,” said Nancy Stephens, Executive Director of the Manufacturers Association of Florida. “To continue reaping the benefits from a strong manufacturing sector, Florida must promote the growth of manufacturing companies through this important sales tax exemption that allows businesses to advance in a globally competitive environment.”

The manufacturing sales tax exemption has worked to dramatically improve outputs from Florida manufacturers and has allowed the state’s businesses to grow and expand. An independent study from Florida TaxWatch showed that since the exemption, manufacturing outputs have increased 11.5 percent. This impressive growth and the Florida manufacturing sector gains will be threatened if this exemption is allowed to expire.

The Florida TaxWatch report, released November 4 2015, found that the sales tax exemption was necessary for Florida businesses to remain competitive with other states and nations. The study found that Florida manufacturers would pay the highest sales tax rates among southern states if the exemption expires. The current sales tax exemption is set to expire in 2017 and MAF is advocating for the passage of a permanent sales tax exemption for Florida’s manufacturing industry.

The Florida TaxWatch report is available here:

<http://www.floridataxwatch.org/library/manufacturingste.aspx>

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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 18,000 manufacturers in Florida investing in new technology, employing highly skilled workers and competing globally. For more information about MAF, visit [www.mafmfg.com](http://www.mafmfg.com).