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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Ohio Has the Workforce Model America Needs**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) today joined federal, state and business leaders at JobsOhio for a roundtable focused on how Ohio's industry-led manufacturing workforce strategy can help advance America's Talent Strategy and strengthen the nation's manufacturing talent pipeline.

The discussion brought together Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor Keith Sonderling, Sen. Bernie Moreno, representatives from the DeWine administration, JobsOhio and business leaders to examine the workforce systems, partnerships and talent pipelines needed to support manufacturing growth.

"Workforce development should not be partisan," said Ryan Augsburger, OMA president. "America cannot outcompete the world if we cannot build the talent to make things here. We appreciate Acting Secretary Sonderling and the Department of Labor for keeping the focus on that challenge."

Ohio's Manufacturing Workforce Blueprint was developed with input from hundreds of Ohio manufacturers and is built around five priorities that connect workforce systems, grow career awareness, broaden the talent pool, align education and training with employer needs, and expand earn-and-learn opportunities.

Those priorities closely align with America's Talent Strategy, including its focus on industry-driven training, worker mobility, integrated workforce systems, accountability and innovation.

JobsOhio has been a key partner in that work, helping connect statewide economic development priorities with industry-led workforce solutions designed to meet the talent needs created by Ohio's continued manufacturing investment.

"Ohio has built something rare," Augsburger said. "Gov. Mike DeWine, Director Stephen Dackin, JobsOhio, manufacturers, educators and workforce partners are not running separate plays. They are working from the same strategy, with employer demand driving the decisions. That is why Ohio is positioned to show how America's Talent Strategy can translate into results."

The need is substantial. Ohio's manufacturing sector requires an estimated 35,000 new entry-level operators and mid-level technicians annually to support continued investment in semiconductors, advanced automotive, aerospace and biopharma.

The Ohio Manufacturing Workforce Blueprint was developed through the Ohio Manufacturing Talent Partnership, led by the OMA's Workforce Leadership Committee and executed through OMA's network of endorsed Industry Sector Partnerships alongside manufacturers and statewide

partners.

“We do not need another workforce initiative that looks good on paper and dies in implementation,” Augsburger said. “Ohio already has the relationships, the infrastructure and the employer leadership to execute. The opportunity now is to scale what works and show the country what an industry-led workforce system can deliver.”

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*The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association composed solely of manufacturers. Established in 1910, the OMA's mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. It represents manufacturers of all sizes in every subsector of the industry. Manufacturing is Ohio's largest economic sector, employing approximately 690,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$138 billion annually to the economy. Visit [ohiomfg.com](http://ohiomfg.com), or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).*

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