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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Moreno Joins Ohio Manufacturers for Candid Discussion on Energy, Workforce

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio's manufacturing economy is drawing national attention, and today U.S. Sen. Bernie Moreno sat down with manufacturers from across the state for a candid discussion about how to keep that momentum going.

The roundtable, hosted by the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA), focused on the issues manufacturers see as most important to staying competitive, including energy costs, the talent pipeline and federal policy. The conversation comes as Ohio continues to earn national recognition for its business climate, including CNBC's recent No. 1 ranking.

"Ohio has earned its momentum," said Ryan Augsburger, president of OMA. "Now the job is to protect it. Senator Moreno understands that the best way to do that is to hear directly from the people investing, hiring and making things here."

Energy was a major part of the discussion. Manufacturers continue to face high electricity costs and are increasingly concerned about billions of dollars in potential new grid spending tied to electricity demand forecasts that may never materialize.

OMA has urged federal regulators and PJM to apply greater scrutiny to those forecasts and make sure the customers creating new demand bear the costs associated with serving it.

"Ohio manufacturers welcome new investment," Augsburger said. "But existing customers are not a blank check for speculative demand. Utilities should not be able to build first, bill later and leave manufacturers holding the bag. If the demand creates the cost, the demand should pay the cost."

Manufacturers also expressed anxiety about the talent pipeline and whether enough skilled workers will be available to support future investment. The discussion touched on ways federal policy can strengthen workforce development, expand opportunities for young people and help employers build the next generation of manufacturing talent.

"Ohio is in a position a lot of states would love to be in," Augsburger said. "The question is whether we are smart enough to keep it that way. That means getting energy costs right, building the talent pipeline and having leaders like Senator Moreno who are willing to listen before Washington gets in the way."

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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, or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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