



Harold King
Executive Vice President
Council of Industry

DEAR READER

Manufacturing Matters

For more than 105 years the Council of Industry has been the manufacturers' association for the Hudson Valley, working to help its members grow and their employees prosper. The Council, its members and employees all know that manufacturing is important to our region and to our nation. Because we "live manufacturing," day in and day out, we sometimes forget that everyone doesn't fully understand its value to the same extent that we do. HV Mfg magazine is intended, in part, to raise awareness about manufacturing in the greater Hudson Valley community and, to that end, this edition focuses on why manufacturing matters to us all.

As a person who has been involved with the sector for roughly 25 years, I have come to understand that manufacturing matters for three important reasons.

The first is economic. Manufacturing creates wealth and good jobs. Manufacturers take raw materials and component parts, add some energy, smarts and creativity, and make products worth much more than the sum of their parts. They sell these products across the globe and that results in money flowing back to our community. What's more, the aforementioned smarts and creativity required to make these products means that manufacturing jobs command rates higher than jobs in other sectors. This creates more wealth in communities where people are employed in manufacturing.

The second is innovation. Manufacturers are responsible for more than 60 percent of our nation's research and development. From the biomedical breakthroughs that save lives to the electronic devices that put the world at your fingertips, to the windmills and photovoltaic cells that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, manufacturers are helping to shape our future.

Finally, manufacturing is essential to our national security. This is not only because the manufacturing sector builds our ships and planes and weapons, but also because a strong manufacturing sector is the basis for a strong economy. An overreliance on imports and substantial manufacturing trade deficits make us vulnerable to everything from exchange rate fluctuations to trade embargoes to natural disasters.

In this edition of HV Mfg, in addition to our regular Leader Profile and Member Profile features, we will spotlight the important role our sector plays in national and regional economies. Our hope is that people who work outside the manufacturing sector will gain a greater appreciation of why manufacturing matters to us all. 



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