

December 10, 2020

NW21-004

To: Northwest Council

From: Northwest L&PA Committee

Subject: PRESUBMITTED NEW BUSINESS: Support R&D investments in Washington State

Background

For Washington State to be a leader in advanced manufacturing, especially in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields like aerospace, significant and ongoing investments must be made in R&D. (research and development).

There are numerous examples of what type of investment this would entail. The most recent example of support that SPEEA NW Council had of such an initiative in the Pacific Northwest is the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center R&D (OMIC R&D).

According to the [Published Ballot, NW17-007](#) was approved by NW Council by a vote of 63 for, 2 against in April 2017.

In 2001, Boeing partnered with the University of Sheffield to create the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre in Sheffield England. At startup there was only one partner company, Boeing, in 2017 there are more than 90 partner companies. In 2001 there were three employees, in 2017 there are more than 1100 employees including many graduate level researchers. Companies have built manufacturing facilities nearby employing several thousand people in high skill high wage jobs. Most recently Boeing and McLaren, (auto manufacturer), have announced plants. Companies that co-locate or are nearby benefit exponentially more than companies with operations far away. Based on the AMRC model, Boeing has set-up 13 more AMRC like research centers around the world. Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center, OMIC, is the first in the US.

In order to protect current and new jobs in advanced manufacturing, in fields like Aerospace, Washington State must ensure significant and ongoing support of research and development (R&D).

MOTION

It is moved that: The NW Council supports investments in Washington State in research and development of advanced manufacturing and environmental-friendly innovations, in STEM related fields including aerospace. This will help maintain and grow workforce jobs and ensure the Northwest remains competitive with global competition in manufacturing.

Further, the Northwest Council supports use of SPEEA website, publications, and other communication resources to educate and encourage individual SPEEA members and retirees to support such investments and supports engagement and cooperation with other organizations in this endeavor.

Prior to council action (voting) to determine a legislative or public affairs position, the Northwest Council's Legislative & Public Affairs Committee shall investigate and produce both pro and con statements and a majority committee recommendation.

Passage or adoption of any legislative or public issue proposal shall be by published ballot and require: A majority vote of all Council Members present.