



June 21, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. President:

Wisconsin is one of the most manufacturing intensive states in America – second only to Indiana. More than 9,000 manufacturers in the state employ over 475,000 people who produce roughly \$65 billion in economic output each year. Wisconsin is proud to be a leading contributor to America's vast manufacturing heritage and its promising future.

Nationally, there are more than 360,000 manufacturers and over 12 million people who work in the industry. These statistics do not include the vast supply chain around manufacturing or the multiplier effect the industry has on other sectors, like energy, transportation, finance, education, health care, retail and hospitality, among others. Manufacturing is what created and continues to sustain a broad middle class, and it continues to be vital to protecting American national security.

As the combined state chamber of commerce and manufacturers' association, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce has been representing the interests of industrial production for more than 110 years, and that is why we are writing to you today.

The rising cost of energy is a direct threat to the vitality and global competitiveness of manufacturing in Wisconsin and across the United States. In 2021, the industrial sector accounted for one-third of total U.S. energy consumption, and manufacturing made up more than 80 percent of that.

Manufacturers need energy to be affordable and reliable. Unfortunately, energy is no longer the former, while the latter is also in jeopardy. According to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment, Wisconsin and surrounding states are at a high risk for blackout or brownout service disruptions this summer. The Mid-continent Independent System Operator (MISO) has also warned Midwest states that peak demand may exceed available energy supply this summer.

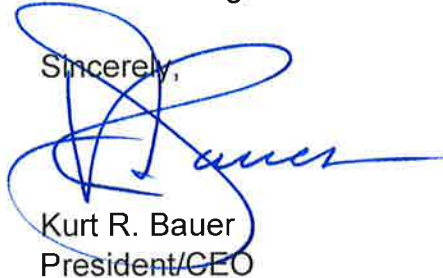
Urgent action is needed by your Administration to bring down the cost of energy and ensure the reliable flow of it to industrial, commercial and consumer ratepayers.

While we are aware of your Administration's desire to decarbonize the grid, the transition away from fossil fuels to green energy sources must be done in a responsible and gradual manner. Rushing this shift fails to recognize that energy generated from wind and solar cannot currently replace the energy generated from fossil fuels. Additionally, baseload sources of "always on" energy from nuclear or fossil fuels must remain in the mix to provide energy when intermittent wind and solar power are not available.

Rushing this transition will fuel long-term energy inflation that threatens the viability of Wisconsin's top industry. Across the country, thousands of manufacturing companies and tens of thousands of good-paying American jobs could be put at risk.

We urge your Administration to adopt policies that will unleash the potential of inexpensive and efficient American energy. Failure to do so could result in Wisconsin and the United States losing our reputation as global leaders in advanced manufacturing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Bauer", is written over the word "Sincerely," and the typed name "Kurt R. Bauer".

Kurt R. Bauer
President/CEO

CC: Wisconsin Congressional Delegation