DATE

ADDRESS

**By e-mail**

email

Dear XXX

Ahead of the forthcoming General Election, I am writing to you as a manufacturer based in your constituency employing XXXX people to share what I believe are some of the key priorities for my sector.

Manufacturing holds a vital place in the UK economy, contributing £224bn of Gross Value Added in 2023. It's a major driver of innovation, with 43% of R&D investment stemming from the sector. Notably, it's a significant contributor to high-quality job creation, employing 2.6 million people nationwide, with wages 9% above the average for the rest of the economy. Moreover, manufacturing offers solutions to pressing economic and national security challenges like climate change and the volatility of global supply chains.

Our sector has demonstrated resilience and adaptability in recent years, setting the stage for further growth in the future. It fosters long-term domestic and foreign investment, as well as regional prosperity and increased tax receipts of the exchequor.

As a Make UK member I am backing their Maker’s Manifesto which sets out ten key objectives which I believe are crucial for the next government if they want to support and grow the UK’s manufacturing sector:

1. **A long term robust and modern industrial strategy**

87% of manufacturers say they are at a disadvantage compared to our international competitors because of a lack of a UK industrial strategy.

1. **Maximise the opportunities of a net zero economy**

2 in 5 manufacturers have identified growth opportunities in the net zero economy. Yet 71% say they need government help to seize these opportunities, citing the cost of the investment as a barrier to driving energy efficiency and securing their transition to net zero.

1. **Grow and develop manufacturing future talent**

Fewer than 1 in 5 firms believe that current government support for skills training is adequate and the number of engineering and manufacturing apprenticeships in England is 38% lower than before the Apprenticeship Levy was introduced.

1. **Retrain and upskill the current workforce**

**With 61,000 unfilled vacancies in manufacturing right now UK manufacturing firms are losing approximately £6.5bn in potential output each year.**

1. **Unlock innovation, support commercialisation, accelerate digital adoption and automation**

**60% of manufacturers have seen automation improve their productivity and 50% saw increases in labour efficiency.**

1. **Create the right conditions for businesses to invest**

Investment fuels business growth and is vital for both startups and established firms. Despite significant global economic challenges, UK manufacturers invested over £34bn in 2023, an increase of 4% on the previous year.

1. **Boost manufacturing exports across the globe**

**Almost half all the UK exports (49%) were goods in 2022, meaning manufacturing is this country’s largest individual export producer.**

1. **Invest in physical and digital infrastructure to enable local and national growth**

**Infrastructure is the backbone of the economy. well-developed infrastructure attracts investment, and people and enriches communities.**

1. **Build the Future Factory with AI**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds immense potential to revolutionise the manufacturing sector, improving efficiency, productivity, and innovation.

1. **Make our supply chains more resilient**

79% of firms say that supply chain vulnerabilities are a strategic risk to their business over the next two years.

The UK manufacturing sector is now at a critical juncture. The policy landscape has changed significantly in recent years and more changes are yet to come, from the transition to net zero to the rapidly accelerating technological change of the fourth industrial revolution.

As a modern manufacturing site and employer in your constituency I would be very pleased to host a visit for you and to answer any questions which you have about what we do and the core ambitions of the sector.

Kind regards,