



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAF AND FMCC APPLAUD SENATE FINANCE & TAX COMMITTEE'S VOTE TO SUPPORT MME SALES TAX EXEMPTION

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Manufacturers Association of Florida (MAF) and the Florida Medical Manufacturers Consortium (FMCC) applaud the Senate Finance and Tax Committee for voting favorably on SB 98, Sales Tax Exemption for Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment. The bill, sponsored by Senator Hukill, will make permanent the temporary sales tax exemption for manufacturing machinery and equipment.

“Manufacturers are hiring Floridians because the market is expanding,” said Nancy Stephens, Executive Director of MAF. “There are more than 4,000 manufacturing jobs open in Florida today. The manufacturing industry hires a variety of positions, from sales associates and engineers to truck drivers and CNC machine operators. With an average annual salary of \$55,520, manufacturing has proven to be an industry that provides promising careers with a good income for Florida’s families. MAF appreciates the Senate Finance and Tax Committee for their support of Florida manufacturers, their businesses and their ability to create new jobs.”

The Committee heard from manufacturer Geary Havran, President of NDH Medical, Inc. in St. Petersburg, Florida and Chairman of FMCC. “More than 85% of medical manufacturers in Florida are small businesses and we compete nationally and globally,” said Havran. “When we have to pay 6% in sales taxes on equipment that our neighboring southern states do not have to pay, it makes it incredibly difficult for us to be competitive.”

The temporary sales tax exemption on manufacturing machinery and equipment was passed by the Florida legislature in 2014 and will expire in 2017. “For the past 12 consecutive months, manufacturing has added 9,200 new jobs in Florida and the permanent sales tax exemption on manufacturing machinery and equipment will allow this trend to continue,” said Stephens. Havran added, “For every \$250k in equipment we buy, we hire 2-3 new people -- so the exemption tends to pay for itself.”

We applaud Senator Hukill and Representative Magar for filing legislation for the 2016 Session that would make the temporary sales tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment permanent. We encourage all the members of the Florida Legislature to support the manufacturing industry so we can secure even more jobs and diversify Florida’s economy.

We also thank the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida Ports Council, Northrup Grumman, Tampa Bay Partnership, Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Space Florida, National Federation of Independent Businesses, Printing Association of Florida, Associated Industries of Florida, and Florida TaxWatch for their support of this legislation.

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About the Manufacturers Association of Florida (MAF)

The MAF was formed in 2006 to improve the business climate for manufacturers in Florida. There are some 19,000 manufacturers in Florida investing in new technology, employing highly skilled workers and competing globally. For more information about MAF, visit www.mafmfg.com.

About the Florida Medical manufacturers Consortium (FMCC)

The Florida Medical Manufacturers Consortium (FMCC) is a statewide association of medical technology firms. The FMCC exists to unite, promote and grow the Florida medical device industry, and to enhance the business success of its member companies. For more information on FMCC, visit www.floridamedtech.com.