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Green Manufacturing Project Remarks

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I am especially pleased to be part of today's announcement for three reasons:

First, WMU's Green Manufacturing project will leverage the expertise of our University to help keep area businesses competitive in a global economy, most especially smaller companies that lack the technical expertise to deal with the rapid innovation in this field.

Second, this project is a merger of basic science and applied engineering, which has long been a hallmark of Western Michigan University. It will take our most-recent understanding of energy and materials and apply them in real manufacturing and business situations to provide practical solutions with immediate and long-term benefits.

Finally, the funding provided will build upon the success of the existing manufacturing, environmental and energy research centers and programs at WMU. Green Manufacturing will support collaboration with industry to develop strategies, procedures, and systems to achieve economically feasible, environmentally benign, and energy efficient manufacturing processes. As such, it will help build upon our University's commitment and growing reputation as a leader in sustainability.

Make no mistake, the economic prosperity of our country and our state depends on manufacturing. Throughout history, every great economy has been based in
manufacturing, and no country has risen to world leadership without a vibrant manufacturing sector.

As is true in all areas of society, the future of manufacturing depends on sustainability. We can and will manufacture goods and create jobs in a way that preserves precious resources while reducing consequences to the environment.