

NEWS FROM
THE TOOLING, MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGIES ASSOCIATION.

The Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association draws a line in the sand to fight for its members against multinational corporate-controlled globalization.

Existing trade agreements have compromised national security and undermined our national sovereignty.

Farmington Hills, Michigan, January 4, 2007--- The Michigan Tooling Association, in a landmark special member election, has voted to change the mission, scope, and reach of its association to become the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association (TMTA). Not of Michigan. Or the Great Lakes or the Midwest. We've decided not to be constrained by self-imposed boundaries any longer. So, we've become the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association. Period. We've decided, also, to draw a line in the sand and demonstrate resolve not to fade into economic and political irrelevance.

Our goal is to attract manufacturing and technologies companies in Michigan and other states that feel that the political advocacy and association representation that they have received up until now is insufficient and inadequate. It's time to get noisy. Domestic manufacturers have been sold down the river.

Take many members of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), for instance. They feel that they have been betrayed by John Engler and his Executive Committee most recently as a result of Engler and his Executive Committee's decision not to support HR 1498, the House Resolution having to do with Chinese currency manipulation after there had been an actual vote taken by the membership of NAM directing NAM to support the House Resolution. As egregious as this was, it was the quintessential example of an association that is 'staff driven' as opposed to 'member driven'.

Go to the NAM website and click on their Board of Directors. You'll see a Who's Who of principals of multi-national companies who

comprise the great majority of NAM's Board members. Clearly, NAM is not representing the interests of domestic manufacturers who happen to be NAM's core constituency.

Many members of NAM are beyond frustrated; they've become angry about the situation and have become aware that since NAM is not representing their best interests they need to look elsewhere for representation. The Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association is now inviting dissatisfied and disenfranchised members of other manufacturing and technologies associations to join us.

We offer real, proactive, and aggressive advocacy for domestic manufacturers and technology companies. Robert Dumont, TMTA's President and CEO, says that there is clearly a need. "It's funny," says Dumont, "when I'm knocking on doors in Lansing and Washington DC I rarely bump into anyone from other associations."

Associations, also, need to draw a line in the sand and demonstrate resolve not to fade into economic and political irrelevance by becoming more than lunch and dinner events. The stakes are enormous. The masses of American people are disenfranchised. Our association, the TMTA, intends to change that through even greater aggressive advocacy on behalf of our members.

The TMTA is aligning itself with other groups and grassroots organizations representing agriculture, workers, and manufacturers to expose the ramifications of multinational corporate-controlled globalization that is undermining the future of domestic manufacturers and the service industries depending upon them. Existing trade agreements have resulted in tens of thousands of manufacturing company closures and eliminated millions of manufacturing jobs. They have also compromised national security and undermined our national sovereignty.

Manufacturing is vital to the nation and now, we, the TMTA, have decided to draw the line in the sand. Our futures and the futures of our children are at stake.

Of course, we, all of us in manufacturing, are part of the problem. We have to accept our share of the responsibility and our share of the blame for what's happening in order to fix it. As we have become more and more mired in 'survival mode', what has emerged is the phenomenon of the 'disconnect'. The disconnect is reflected in a general unwillingness to change and a resistance to facing reality. The reality is that there is now a 'creep' in the minds and hearts of those in manufacturing and that creep is manifested in a quiet acquiescence and woeful blindness to the issues that are threatening the very survival of our industry. This situation must be turned around. By us. If not us, who? If not now, when?

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