



**KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION  
OF MANUFACTURERS**

June 4, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The Kentucky Association of Manufacturers profoundly endorses the partnership between Project Lead the Way (PLTW), Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) and East Kentucky Power Co-op (EKPC)..

The impact of the STEM-TEK initiative cannot be overstated. No greater investment can be made in the people of the SOAR region than to equip them with problem solving, communication, and critical thinking skills.

We, the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, represent the greatest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product in the Commonwealth: Manufacturing. Manufacturers from all sectors are in critical need of a well-trained, productive and responsible work force. Project Lead The Way delivers. Ultimately, if a viable workforce is present, manufacturers will follow.

Further, this is a sustainable investment in all people of the SOAR region. These skills are transferable to all aspects of a constructive lifestyle, regardless of career choice. For those outside the manufacturing world, PLTW provides a framework of practical, life skills that can be applied universally.

Resources of time and money are important investments. A STEM-TEK investment will result in considerable transformation and provide substantive return to the SOAR region, and ultimately to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Higdon".

C. Greg Higdon  
President & CEO

*Manufacturing. Prosperity in the Making.*

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