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## **Congressman Kratovil and Senator Klausmeier Join RMI & NAM For a Roundtable Discussion at Marlin Steel**

*Corporate tax and health care issues discussed in light of legislation currently under consideration on Capitol Hill*

BALTIMORE – Members of the Regional Manufacturing Institute (RMI) and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) gathered Wednesday at Marlin Steel Wire ([www.MarlinWire.com](http://www.MarlinWire.com)) for a tour of the Marlin facility and a roundtable discussion with Congressman Frank Kratovil (CD-1-D) and State Senator Kathy Klausmeier (LD-8-D).

The discussion focused on corporate tax issues, including the proposed deferral tax on U.S. companies doing business overseas, the health care reform package currently under consideration, and the cap and trade provision included in the climate change bill that recently passed the House of Representatives. These issues will significantly affect Maryland businesses, particularly within the manufacturing industry, and RMI members have remained engaged in the debate over them now taking place on Capitol Hill.

The RMI members in attendance expressed concern over the potential job cuts they would be forced to make should these pieces of legislation be enacted in their current form. They emphasized the fact that the United States is number one in manufacturing, creating high-paying jobs with excellent benefits. Currently, U.S. manufacturers are competing against overseas manufacturers that employ workers for \$0.30 per hour and are depending on the government to enact legislation that will create an economic climate in which they can compete.

Marlin Steel President and RMI Chair Drew Greenblatt, who hosted yesterday's meeting, was encouraged by both legislators' responses to the concerns raised by the members in attendance. "Both Congressman Kratovil and Senator Klausmeier recognize the struggle the manufacturing industry and the business community at large face during these tough economic times. Proposals such as raising taxes (personal, corporate and the deferral tax) and cap and trade, if enacted, will have a tremendous negative impact on Maryland businesses, and in particular small businesses such as mine."

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