



National News

The Nation's First Rally for Manufacturing Attracts Top Government and Business Leaders

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Although The Event Focused On Maryland Manufacturing, the Rally Could Have Been Held In Any State in the Nation

"A solution to economic malaise does not come by passivity; it comes by action. On August 5, 2011, Maryland acted" President of [Marlin Steel Wire](#) Drew Greenblatt told a crowd of 800 manufacturing supporters for the 1st rally for manufacturing.

How? The nation's first event to attract support of job creation through manufacturing was held in Baltimore, Maryland and it was a roaring success. Hundreds gathered in support of the initiative, dubbed Rally for Maryland Manufacturing and hosted by the Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland. The rally included speakers from the state's top political leaders, including Governor Martin O'Malley, Congressman Steny Hoyer, Congressman John Sarbanes, and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, and manufacturers like General Motors plant manager Bill Tiger, [Marlin Steel Wire](#)

[President Drew Greenblatt](#), and Paul Reed Smith of PRS Guitars. RMI's goal was to combine industry support with high-profile endorsements in an effort to raise awareness of the benefits the manufacturing sector has to offer a recovering economy in the long run.

Maryland currently employs 125,000 manufacturing workers at an average salary of \$73,000. However, "When you look at manufacturing jobs," said Congressman John Sarbanes, "they do more than just provide one person with a paycheck. They give an opportunity for a generation to enter the middle class; they permit people to generate wealth." Governor O'Malley went on to use Marlin Steel Wire as an example of this opportunity. "One of the employees was originally making \$8/hour. That same man is now making \$60,000/year. He has health insurance and a 401K plan for his retirement." Building upon this point, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake offered, "Maryland's best days are not behind us, they are ahead of us. [Manufacturing is] making a way for people to get into the middle class and to stabilize our city. You have a partner. I'll fight for you, I'll be there. Thank you all for understanding how important it is to Make It in Maryland."

In addition to pushing for more local manufacturing jobs, the rally highlighted the industry's other outlet of expansion: exports. "We're going to turn around the unemployment rate. It's going to happen because a lot of companies [will] start cranking up and start exporting," Drew Greenblatt, President of Marlin Steel Wire, said. The company manufactures [custom wire baskets](#), [wire forms](#), [precision sheet metal fabrications](#) in Baltimore and exports to 35 countries with increasing growth over the past few years. Governor O'Malley expressed his support of this initiative. "If we can increase exports, we can make our country a better country. We don't want to export jobs; we want to export the things we make and the things we do well."

Although the event focused on Maryland manufacturing, the rally could have been held in any state in the nation. "Job creation" is a catchphrase heard all too often in this tough time of economic recovery. "Look up here," Governor O'Malley said. "We've got Democrats, we've got Republicans, we've got independents this is something we need to do together as a state and as a nation." Building coalitions between business and government is integral to building a successful economy in the USA. "Your success as a business is connected to this state and to this country," stated Congressman Sarbanes.

“Get up with the idea that when you make it, when you achieve something for your business, you are doing something else. You are making America proud.” RMI encourages other cities to initiate their own rallies for manufacturing. “I feel that this is a model example of a successful manufacturing rally,” said Greenblatt. “Hopefully it will become a theme in cities across the nation.”

Video: <http://www.marlinwire.com/make-it-in-maryland-rally.htm>

<http://mfrtech.com/articles/17459.html>

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