

## Jefferson County, Illinois

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, manufacturing in Illinois has been the historical bedrock of the state's economy for nearly two centuries; and,

WHEREAS, nearly 12,507 manufacturing firms call Illinois home and provide employment for more than 572,500 workers; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois manufacturers face a graying of the workforce, as more than 25,000 "Baby-Boom" era workers will retire each and every year between now and 2027; and,


WHEREAS, a strategic approach to creating high quality, skilled workers available to replace retiring workers does not exist everywhere in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, modern advanced manufacturing relies on clean, well-lit and climate controlled environments: provides competitive benefits to every employee including healthcare and retirement plans: and thereby makes manufacturing a worthwhile career choice for all Illinoisans; and,

WHEREAS, specific public events designed to expand general knowledge about the innumerable contributions manufacturing makes to our common good would bring significant change to the public perception of manufacturing in our state;

THEREFORE, I Steven Draege, Jefferson County Board Chairman, do hereby proclaim the first full week of October as MANUFACTURING WEEK in Jefferson County, Illinois to encourage local collaborative efforts be designed to expand knowledge about and improve general public perception of manufacturing careers and manufacturing's value to the local economy, and urge all schools districts, community colleges and manufacturers in Jefferson County, Illinois to invest time and resources to celebrate the contributions manufacturers make to the fabric of our state's communities and assure continued success of local events highlighting Manufacturing Week in Jefferson County, Illinois.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of Jefferson County, Illinois to be affixed this day of September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

  
Steven Draege  
County Board Chairman, Jefferson County, Illinois