

The Honorable YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS' NAME

U.S. House of Representatives

111 Address

Washington , DC 20010

Dear Representative Smith:

Congressman Sam Graves of Missouri is submitting the attached letter to the Chairman and Ranking Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations, which requests \$7.5 million in funding for the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.

I am requesting your support and that you "sign on" to this letter by contacting Julie Moorhead on the staff of Congressman Sam Graves at [Julie.Moorhead@mail.house.gov](mailto:Julie.Moorhead@mail.house.gov) or at (202) 225-7041.

The Baldrige Program is driving U.S. competitiveness in the global economy by providing organizational assessment tools and criteria; educating leaders in businesses, schools, health care organizations, government and nonprofit agencies about the best practices of world-class organizations. Also, the program recognizes national role models by honoring them with the only Presidential Award for performance excellence.

The Baldrige Program was established in 1987 by Congress and President Ronald Reagan. Federal funding for the Baldrige Program was phased out in 2012. Without a federal appropriation, the Baldrige Foundation will not be able to sustain the program. Restoration of federal funding through the National Institutes of Standards and Technology within the U.S. Department of Commerce assures the Baldrige Program's continued reach across key sectors of the economy, including health care and education, and strengthens the formal nation-wide network of state and regional programs, which provide more than \$1 billion in economic benefit each year.

The ratio of the program's benefits for the U.S. economy to program cost is greater than 820 to 1, making it one of our best investments and most successful public-private partnership in Government today. Demonstrated success to manufacturing and small business organizations include job growth, improved productivity, product quality and reliability, increased revenues and return on investment, customer satisfaction, customer loyalty, market share, and accelerated rates of innovation.

Baldrige helps improve health care quality and affordability. The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology recommended the Departments of Commerce and Health and Human Services build on the Baldrige program to help improve cost and quality of healthcare in the US. The Baldrige program is also driving improvements in efficiency and student performance in our schools and higher education. Demonstrated benefits include improved graduation rates, college attendance rates, AP course participation and better performance including higher standardized test scores.

With so much return on this small amount of funding, the Baldrige Program is clearly the best investment our nation can make for a competitive future in the global economy.

Thank you for your support of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Title

Your Address

Your City, State, Zip

Your Phone Number