**AFS Sample Thank You Note for Senate Congressional Meetings – 2019**NOTE:  E-mail Thank You LettersPersonalize & Use Company Logo

Dear Senator [**Last Name**]: or **Staff First Name:**

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on June 12th, 2019 during the American Foundry Society (AFS) Metalcasting Day on the Hill.  As I mentioned, our [foundry or company] has been in business since [**insert date or years**] and employs [**# of employees**]. We produce the following castings [**list types of castings**] for [**list sectors you supply**]. [If supplier – describe what you supply to the foundry industry.]

During our meeting, I noted the following issues of particular importance to our company and the U.S. metalcasting industry:

1. **Support the *BuyAmerican.gov Act of 2019* (H.R. 2472/S. 1324) –** The U.S. metal casting industry is alarmed by the wide-spread use of Buy American waivers and the lack of a government-wide tracking system. U.S. federal agencies have spent more than $30 billion over the past five years and the Department of Defense has spent in excess of $200 billion on foreign manufactured products since 2007. This legislation would: **create a centralized website** to track and display requested waivers to Buy American laws; **close loopholes in the waiver process**; offer U.S. manufacturers the opportunity to challenge pending waivers; and, require federal agencies to report on implementation and **compliance with Buy American laws**.
2. **Support the *Transit Infrastructure Vehicle Security Act* (H.R. 2739 / S.846) –** U.S. metalcasters are very concerned about the Chinese government’s continued use of a range of state subsidies and predatory practices to support its rise in the rail and bus manufacturing sectors in the U.S. economy. This bipartisan bill would: **prevent federal transit funds** from being used by transit agencies to award a contract or subcontract **for the procurement of passenger rail cars or transit buses** to Chinese state-owned or supported companies; and, ensure transit agencies develop and execute a cybersecurity plan.
3. **Modernize America’s Infrastructure Network –** Inadequate resources for infrastructure investment prevent states from planning significant projects, which, in turn, means contractors aren’t investing in new equipment, hindering economic growth for metalcasters. Our failure to invest impacts everyone’s quality of life, the competitiveness of our businesses, and the safety and security of our country. **We urge lawmakers to pass a comprehensive infrastructure package that includes**:
* **Issuing Tax-Exempt Bonds –** provide state and local governments, as well as private-sector purchasers with tax credits to attract non-federal investment to help grow and repair America’s aging infrastructure.
* **Establishing a National Infrastructure Bank -** this bank would offer long-term, low-interest loans to finance projects that are larger than $100 million, achieve goals of regional or national importance, and are backed by an identified revenue stream that repays the loan.
* **Addressing the Urgent Shortage of Truck Drivers by supporting the *DRIVE-Safe Act* (H.R. 1374 / S.569)** - enhances safety and training standards for newly qualified and current drivers by offering younger drivers (18-21) with the opportunity to enter the industry safely by creating a two-step apprenticeship program.
1. **Invest in Our Nation’s Water Infrastructure -** Nationwide, a large portion of our water infrastructure—including drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems, pipes, locks, and dams—is approaching or has already reached the end of its useful life. Without sustainable, reliable supplies of water, attracting new businesses to communities across America becomes more challenging.
2. **Reduce Barriers to Career and Technical Education in our Nation’s Education System** – Today, more than 80 percent of metalcasters report a skills shortage. There have been several bills introduced to provide funding for tuition assistance programs for participants in apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. **We urge lawmakers to support the:**
	* ***Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act (JOBS Act)* (S.839) –** This bipartisan bill expands financial aid (Pell grants) to include students enrolled in high-quality and rigorous short-term job training programs that are at least eight weeks long and lead to industry-based credentials. *Note: No House companion legislation currently*.
	* ***Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act* (H.R. 1434 / S.634) –** This legislation would expand elementary, secondary, and vocational education opportunities by creating a federal tax credit to nonprofit scholarship funds and allows for scholarships related to career and other forms of workforce training.

**[If meeting with Senator]** I look forward to continuing our dialogue with you and your staff on these issues. If you have questions about any of these priority issues, my company or the metalcasting industry, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or our association’s Washington Representative, Stephanie Salmon - 202-452-7135 – ssalmon@afsinc.org.

 **OR**
**[If meeting with Staff]** I look forward to working with you and the Senator on key issues affecting my company and our industry. In the meantime, if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or our association’s Washington Representative, Stephanie Salmon - 202-452-7135 – ssalmon@afsinc.org.

Sincerely,

**Name, Title
Company – Email and/or Phone Number**