

**“Strengthening Manufacturing for the Entire Community”**

April 29 – 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM  
(Plumbers Hall, 1340 W. Washington, Chicago )

*Co-Sponsored by*  
***The Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council***  
***The Chicago Federation of Labor***  
***The Alliance for Regional Development***

Dear Friends:

The Chicago region has long been a center of manufacturing and, despite considerable shrinkage in the sector in recent decades, continues to account for more than 400,000 jobs. Today, however, there are signs that the sector is poised for growth with companies hiring, expanding and relocating to the area and the new federally-funded Digital Lab for Manufacturing coming to Chicago. To support the manufacturing revival underway, the Chicago region needs a comprehensive policy to create a skilled workforce, foster innovation, upgrade infrastructure, and spur investment.

On April 29 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council, the Chicago Federation of Labor, and the Alliance for Regional Development will bring together manufacturers and policy leaders for a discussion aimed at creating a comprehensive manufacturing policy. Our keynote speaker is Peter Marsh, former manufacturing editor of the *Financial Times* and the author of “*The New Industrial Revolution: Consumers, Globalization and the End of Mass Production*. We hope you will join us. Please RSVP to Dan Swinney at [dswinney@mfgren.org](mailto:dswinney@mfgren.org)

8:30-9:00 Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:05 Opening Remarks by Jorge Ramirez, President, Chicago Federation of Labor.

9:05-10:00 Keynote Address and Q&A with Peter Marsh

10:00-10:40 Panel Discussion with local manufacturers, including:

- Craig Freedman, CEO Freedman Seating
- Julio Martinez, Plant Manager, Kay Manufacturing

Moderated by Northwestern University Professor Hal Sirkin, senior partner of The Boston Consulting Group (BCG), and co-author, most recently, of *The U.S. Manufacturing Renaissance: How Shifting Global Economics Are Creating an American Comeback*.

10:45-11:25 Panel Discussion with policy makers on the elements of a comprehensive manufacturing policy, with:

- Haven Allen, Manufacturing Specialist, World Business Chicago
- Kelly O’Brien, Executive Director, Alliance for Regional Development
- Scott Miller, Executive Director, Illinois Manufacturing Lab

Moderated by Peter Cunningham, former Assistant Secretary of Education, US Dept. of Education

11:25-11:30 Closing Remarks – Dan Swinney, Executive Director, Manufacturing Renaissance