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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(PHOTOS AVAILABLE)**

**MINNESOTA PRECISION MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION MEMBERS MEET WITH
SENATOR FRANKEN**

Minneapolis, Minn (November 30, 2009) — Members of the Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association met with Senator Al Franken at Roberts Automatic Products in Chanhassen, Minn. on Saturday, November 14.

The meeting, which began by providing the senator with a tour of Roberts Automatic Products, provided those in attendance the opportunity to give feedback to the senator on issues of workforce development in the manufacturing industry. Key highlights addressed during the meeting included the impact of out-state technical programs being shut down, the importance of Project Lead the Way curriculum, the M-Powered program, and current proposed legislation HR2331 – Student Aid & Financial Responsibility Act, which could provide millions of dollars of funding to technical colleges across the U.S.

During the 30-minute meeting Senator Franken stressed the need to “invigorate manufacturing in Minnesota.” Franken added, “We need to be making things again in the U.S.” He also expressed the need for vocational programs saying he wants “home economics and industrial arts programs back in the schools.”

Attending the meeting were current MPMA President Mike Gramse, MRG Tool& Die, Faribault, Minn.; Mike Yeager, Yeager Machine, Norwood-Young America, Minn.; Ted Roberts, Roberts Automatic Products, Chanhassen, Minn.; Jim Roberts, Roberts Automatic Products, Chanhassen, Minn.; Cecilia Cervantes, Hennepin Technical College; Carole Carlson, Hennepin Technical College; Joe



Fredkove, Hennepin Technical College; Erik Ajax, E.J. Ajax & Sons, Minneapolis, Minn. and the Executive Director of MPMA, Jaime Nolan.

“We are very encouraged by the senator’s interest in supporting the manufacturing industry,” said Nolan. “Manufacturing makes up 11% of the state’s economy, and is responsible for over 300,000 jobs. Finding skilled workers to fill much needed jobs is a constant challenge, and the senator’s commitment to helping place those positions is important to the future of our industry.”

For over 50 years MPMA has been the leading voice of the precision manufacturing industry in Minnesota. MPMA introduces, leads and supports the initiatives and education that keeps manufacturing in Minnesota a strong and vital component of the state’s economy.

For more information visit www.mpma.com or call (952) 564-3041