



## Joint Press Release

from:

Von Ruden Manufacturing & Enterprise MN

*Summary: Von Ruden Manufacturing business leader testifies at the State Capitol urging support for GAP, the Growth Acceleration Program for small manufacturing companies. Brandon Anderson, vice president of Von Ruden Manufacturing lauds Enterprise Minnesota's work as "invaluable" to many Minnesota companies*

**Minneapolis, MN (March 11, 2009)** – Brandon Anderson, vice president of Von Ruden Manufacturing in Buffalo, MN, traveled to the state capitol today to testify about the vital need for resources that will provide the economic boost small MN manufacturing companies need in order to sustain and create jobs. Speaking before the Senate Business, Industry, and

Jobs Committee and the House Finance Committee, Bioscience and Workforce Development Policy and Oversight Division, Anderson told lawmakers that a State investment in the Growth Acceleration Program (GAP) will provide tangible and necessary economic opportunity to small manufacturing companies throughout Minnesota.

"In our line of work, having a program like GAP is critical to staying ahead of the curve," Anderson said. "GAP helps us keep up with new skills, techniques, and tactics so that we're competitive with any company." The GAP legislation, authored by State Senator David Tomassoni (Chisolm) and State Representative Tim Mahoney (St. Paul) would provide a direct State investment of \$3 million to provide small manufacturing, and manufacturing-related companies with enough resources to help them stay in business, compete and continue their commitment as employers, job creators and contributors to local community life. Currently, manufacturing or manufacturing-related service companies with fewer than 100 employees are eligible for a matching grant; the new plan proposes a three-to-one match for those companies with fewer than 50 employees, a one-to-one match for those with 50 to 100 employees, and a one-to-three match for companies with more than 100 employees.

Since passage in 2007 of one-time GAP funding of \$750,000, more than 65 manufacturing enterprises throughout the state have participated in GAP and results have generally shown a \$15 to \$1 return on the investment. Manufacturing jobs are vital to our state's economy. More than one in ten Minnesota jobs are in manufacturing. Each one of these jobs supports another 1.3 related jobs - meaning that nearly 800,000 jobs in Minnesota are associated with the manufacturing industry. That equals 29 percent of the state's workforce. Enterprise Minnesota's efforts to help businesses across the state have touched the lives of the citizens who work at those companies.



*Enterprise Minnesota president (left) Bob Kill, State Senator David Tomassoni, RIE Coatings president Chuck Rau, State Senator Amy Koch, and Von Ruden Manufacturing vice president Brandon Anderson (rt)*

Manufacturing forms the bedrock of many Minnesota communities, offering the type of high-wage, high-skill jobs that create much-needed economic opportunity and stability – and which are often otherwise hard to find. Von Ruden has been designing and producing drive components for over sixty years. Von Ruden now manufactures and distributes complete lines of bevel gear boxes, machine tool gear boxes, parallel reducers, hydraulic motors, planetary gear boxes, brakes and overhung load adapters. "Enterprise Minnesota gave us the tools and the confidence to improve our business," Anderson said. "With their help, and GAP resources, Von Ruden is prepared to face challenges head on and compete on a global playing field."

Enterprise Minnesota is a 501(c) (3) non-profit consulting organization that helps Minnesota manufacturing enterprises grow profitably. Chartered by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1987, Enterprise Minnesota is an affiliate of the U.S. Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP).

For more information contact either Brandon Anderson at Von Ruden Manufacturing: 763.682.0322 or Nate Duoss at Enterprise MN: 612.455-4213.