

Made in Rhode Island Manufacturing Collaborative Subcommittee

Public Session

Thursday, January 9, 2014, 11 a.m.

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation

315 Iron Horse Way, Providence, RI

The following were in attendance:

Howard Schneider

Kelly Carello

Bill McCourt

Harsha Prakash

Sherri Carrera

Erik Bright

The topic of this meeting was to define “made in RI”.

It was noted that there are regulations involved for products that indicate “Made in the USA”.

Mr. Schneider said he feels that “Made in RI” should be self-selective, Mr. McCourt agreed.

Ms. Carerra referred to the agenda and noted that the purpose of this meeting is to have definition to bring back to the RI Manufacturing Collaborative and Advisory Council at their next meeting on January 16, 2014.

Mr. Craig Pickell sent an email previously that Ms. Carrera relayed to the group. The email stated his thoughts on the definition of Made in RI:

“any process of combining inputs that results in a finished product having greater monetary vale that the sum of the cost of the inputs’. Embedded in the ‘art of the process’ is specialized knowledge held by the manufacturer

that was developed and refined over time, and which in many cases creates the business' competitive advantage and sustainability.”

Further discussion ensued in regards to what denotes assembly vs. manufacturing. Mr. Prakash feels it should be at the assembly level, not the packaging level; quality is determined at the assembly level.

Ms. Carrera noted that this is just a recommendation to the General Assembly.

It was mentioned that many local food manufacturers create their product in Rhode Island but send it elsewhere to be packaged. Mr. McCourt suggested that these businesses would have a tactical advantage if they could package their products within the state.

Further discussion ensued regarding manufacturing, packaging, components, etc., in regards to the “Made in RI” label. The group finally decided the definition would be as follows:

A registered Rhode Island company using specialized knowledge or processes performing a chemical or physical conversion of a raw material where the labor is performed in the State of Rhode Island.