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January 18, 2011

Mr. Brent D. Glass
Director
National Museum of American History
Office of the Undersecretary for History, Art, and Culture
Smithsonian Institution
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 5112
Washington, DC 20560

Dear Mr. Glass:

It recently has come to my attention that a number of products sold in the gift shop of the National Museum of American History are not manufactured in the United States of America, but in other countries.

I find it especially disappointing that miniature sculptures of presidents of the United States that are sold in the museum, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Barack Obama were made in China.

I do realize that the purchase of foreign products by the Smithsonian will not have a profound impact upon our massive trade deficit - currently at \$457 billion. But the symbolism is extraordinary. It appears that a museum owned by the people of the United States, celebrating the history of the United States, cannot find companies in this country employing American workers that are able to manufacture statues of our founding fathers, or our current president. That is pretty pathetic! I was not aware that the collapse of our manufacturing base had gone that far.

Please do not misunderstand me. I am a great fan of the Smithsonian museums and I think the National Museum of American History does a great job. But, as a nation, we have all got to be aware that one of the major reasons that the unemployment rate in this country is so high is because it is increasingly difficult to find products in our nation's stores that are manufactured in this country. Our national museum should do its best to be a model in helping us address that crisis situation.

As you may know, since 2001 some 42,000 factories have shut down and over 5.4 million good paying manufacturing jobs have been lost. In fact, today, the United States currently has fewer manufacturing jobs than it did in April of 1941, about eight months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. This clearly is one of the factors contributing to the

substantial shrinking of the middle class that we have been seeing in the last several decades.

Given the state of the American economy, I would urge the National Museum of American History to do its very best to find American companies to manufacture the products that it sells. I believe that Americans from all over the country who visit our beautiful national museum would be very appreciative if you would move in that direction.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to speaking with you about this and your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator