



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 23, 2021

## **Reagan Institute Launches Task Force on National Security and U.S. Manufacturing Base Competitiveness**

Washington, DC – The Ronald Reagan Institute’s Center for Peace Through Strength today announced the creation of the [Task Force on National Security and U.S. Manufacturing Base Competitiveness](#).

The bipartisan Task Force will explore the impact of recent economic developments on the strength of industrial sectors relevant to American national security. It will convene 16 prominent thought leaders, current and former public officials, and industry and financial sector executives. The Reagan Institute will release the final report of the Task Force ahead of the Reagan National Defense Forum in December 2021, detailing findings and recommendations that will ensure the United States is prepared to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century from a position of strength.

The Task Force will be co-chaired by Marillyn Hewson, former Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Lockheed Martin Corporation, and David McCormick, Chief Executive Officer of Bridgewater Associates and former Undersecretary of the Treasury for International Affairs. Reagan Institute Policy Director Rachel Hoff will manage the work of the Task Force.

“The decline of our manufacturing base and erosion of our economic competitiveness are not new problems, but there has been insufficient consideration as to what they mean for national security,” said Reagan Institute Director Roger Zakheim. “It is clear that the government alone cannot solve the problems we face. Our Task Force members represent a wide range of stakeholders who have a role to play in solving these problems, and we are confident their recommendations will make a valuable contribution to the national conversation.”

The Task Force will receive briefings from subject matter experts and discuss the following five areas of study:

1. Improving Productivity with Technology
2. Investing Public and Private Capital
3. Building the Workforce of the Future
4. Leveraging Global Partnerships
5. Setting the Rules and Standards

“The dramatic technological advances that are revolutionizing our economy will also require us to rethink what constitutes the defense industrial base,” said Ms. Hewson. “As the tools of warfare change, we must ensure that our manufacturing base adapts to remain capable of meeting America’s national security needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

“The COVID-19 crisis has emphasized the importance of securing our critical supply chains,” added Mr. McCormick. “This Task Force will take a hard look at how we can generate the capital and workforce needed to shore up those vulnerabilities and restore American industrial competitiveness in those sectors that are critical to the nation’s defense.”

#### Task Force Members:

- Ms. Marillyn Hewson || Former Chairman, President, & CEO, Lockheed Martin Corporation (Co-Chair)
- Mr. David McCormick || CEO, Bridgewater Associates, and Former Undersecretary for International Affairs, U.S. Department of Treasury (Co-Chair)
- Ms. Chandra Brown || CEO, MxD, and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Manufacturing, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Mr. Dan Bryant || Senior Vice President for Global Public Policy & Government Affairs, Walmart Inc., and Former Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
- Dr. Andrew Erdmann || Chief Operating Officer, State of Missouri
- Rep. Mike Gallagher || U.S. Representative, Wisconsin, and Captain (Ret.), U.S. Marine Corps
- Dr. Katy George || Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company
- Mr. Raanan Horowitz || President & CEO, Elbit America
- Rep. Chrissy Houlahan || U.S. Representative, Pennsylvania, and Captain (Ret.), U.S. Air Force
- Mr. John May || Founder and Managing Partner, CORE Industrial Partners
- Rep. Michael McCaul || Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee, and U.S. Representative, Texas
- Mr. Matthew Pottinger || Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Hoover Institution, and Former U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor
- Mr. Robert Simmons || Vice President of Defense, Space & Security, Boeing Government Operations, and Former Staff Director, U.S. House Armed Services Committee
- Rep. Elissa Slotkin || U.S. Representative, Michigan, and Former Analyst, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency
- Ms. Kathy Wengel || Executive Vice President & Chief Global Supply Chain Officer, Johnson & Johnson

- Ms. Maggie Wilderotter || Board Chairman, DocuSign, and Former Chairman & CEO, Frontier Communications

For more information about the working group, including the full report, visit <http://www.reaganfoundation.org/ManufacturingTaskForce>.

**Media Contact: Claude Chafin ([chafin@invariantgr.com](mailto:chafin@invariantgr.com)) or Rachel Hoff ([rhoff@reaganfoundation.org](mailto:rhoff@reaganfoundation.org))**

#### **About the Reagan Foundation and Institute:**

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the nonprofit organization created by President Reagan himself and specifically charged by him with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles -individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion and the award-winning Discovery Center, as well as the Reagan Institute, which carries out the Foundation's work in Washington, D.C. The Reagan Library houses over 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 60,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It also serves as the final resting place of America's 40th President and his First Lady.