

# **Eagle Manufacturing CEO Joe Eddy Discusses Manufacturing With Donald Trump**

**Eagle Manufacturing CEO invited to White House**



WHEELING — Joe Eddy told President Donald Trump that “burdensome and unnecessary” regulations prevent the nation’s manufacturers from reaching their full potential, while speaking with him at the White House Friday.

Eddy, president and CEO of Eagle Manufacturing in Wellsburg, joined other business executives representing the National Association of Manufacturers in speaking to the president about the state of their industries.

“There are new federal mandates every year, on everything from health care and energy to workplace conversations,” Eddy said regarding his meeting with Trump. “This is burdensome and unnecessary – and it’s contributed to a nationwide decimation of manufacturing jobs.”

Throughout the 2016 campaign, Trump blasted both excessive regulations and free trade deals such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Some have blamed such agreements for the closure of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, Weirton Steel, Ormet Corp., Imperial Glass, Fostoria Glass, and other factories that once employed thousands of workers in the Upper Ohio Valley.

“My administration is working every day to make it easier for manufacturers to build, hire and grow in America. We’re removing job-killing regulations and lifting the burdens on American industry like I would say have never been lifted before. We’ve done a lot of work over the last 60, 70 days, and I think you’re seeing some real production,” Trump said during the Friday meeting, according to [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).

Eddy cited information from the National Association of Manufacturers as proof executives believe Trump is moving things in the right direction. According to a survey, 93.3 percent of manufacturers have a positive feeling about their company’s outlook. This compares to only 56.6 percent expressing the same attitudes at this time last year, the association said.

“A smarter regulatory process, and sustainable infrastructure and energy investments would empower us, as an industry, to create more good-paying jobs, and allow us to remain competitive in the global economy,” Eddy said after the meeting.

During the session, according to the White House website, Eddy emphasized the affordable energy aspect of manufacturing. Eddy, whose company specializes in crafting products from plastic, continues as a strong advocate for the building of an ethane cracker in the Marcellus and Utica shale region.

On Friday, however, he spoke on behalf of those who depend on West Virginia coal mining.

Earlier this week, Trump issued an executive order to overturn the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which required electricity generators to cut their carbon dioxide emissions significantly.

"I bring from West Virginia a major thank you for the work you've done for coal," Eddy told Trump.

"Great state. Great people. Really. We really opened it up. Nobody thought it would happen that fast," Trump said in response to Eddy.

Eddy also told Trump the state's opioid problem also impacts manufacturing and other industrial work because it can sometimes be challenging to find drug-free employees.

"We need to let our young people know there are career opportunities available to them in West Virginia, and they don't necessarily have to have four-year college degrees to have successful careers," Eddy added.