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## Editorial: Environmental, industrial policies must work in tandem

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If it accomplishes nothing else, the National Summit under way in the Renaissance Center will serve its mission if it wakes up Americans to the vital need for a sound national industrial policy.

In opening the summit Monday, Ford Motor Co. Executive Chairman Bill Ford Jr. noted "there are still some in this country who don't care about our manufacturing base." He is being kind.

He could have just as easily said there are too many who are openly hostile to manufacturing and consider it an environmental evil.

Both Ford and his summit co-chair, Andrew Liveris of Dow Chemical Co., called for an industrial policy that works in tandem with the environmental and energy policy.

Currently, environmental protection and industrial growth are competing agendas, with the environmentalists most often prevailing. Efforts to curtail greenhouse gases focus on policies such as carbon cap-and-trade that place severe limits on manufacturing and energy production.

Liveris said a "sane energy policy has for too long been an oxymoron" and echoed Ford's call for energy and environmental measures that both curb pollution and allow the country to get back to "making real things -- real innovative things."

America has little hope for a broad economic revival unless it shores up and expands its crumbling manufacturing base. As a percentage of gross domestic product, manufacturing has declined 25 percent in the past decade.

"We can't devastate a central component of the economy," said panelist Deborah Wince-Smith of the Council on Competitiveness. She added that the environment is no better off if America drives its manufacturing overseas and then buys back the imported products.

The summit is off to a good start in addressing the central challenge of shaping a new economy.

We can't continue to compartmentalize environmental and industrial policy. The two must be integrated with the goal of creating a vigorous economy in a clean environment.

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