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REP. JOSEPH SHEKARCHI JOINS KENNEY MANUFACTURING, WALMART TO CELEBRATE JOB CREATION, INVESTMENTS IN AUTOMATION AT WARWICK PLANT

Tour of factory showcases Rhode Island company succeeding in U.S. manufacturing by investing in its workers and new technology



Left to Right: Leslie Kenney, president and CEO of Kenney Manufacturing; Rep. Joseph Shekarchi; Chris Buchanan, director of public affairs and state & local government relations for Walmart

WARWICK, RI --- January 23, 2019 -- To celebrate a Rhode Island company that has gotten U.S. manufacturing right, Rep. Joseph Shekarchi, Majority Leader of the RI House of Representatives, joined Kenney Manufacturing and Walmart to tour the factory and highlight a successful operation that has not only invested in the latest technology and automation but also has kept its plant operational -- and its jobs in-state.

“Kenney Manufacturing is a great Rhode Island manufacturing success story: a company that has made strategic investments in technology to stay on top of its market, provide outstanding products that people want and establish and maintain a valuable workforce that manufactures those products right here in our state,” he said. “We are extremely proud that Kenney’s roots have been in Rhode Island for more than a century, and that its leaders work hard to ensure it will remain successful here well into the future.”

Kenney manufactures over 28 million curtain rods and shower bars each year at its Warwick plant and has been a strategic supplier partner to Walmart since 1982. Today, more than 60 percent of Kenney’s Walmart U.S. retail sales are either made or assembled in Rhode Island.



“We’re thrilled to welcome Rep. Shekarchi and our Walmart partners here today,” said Leslie Kenney, president and CEO of Kenney Manufacturing. “Our company has a long history of providing jobs to men and women across the country. What I am most proud of is the number of families our factory has supported over the years, how many meals have been put on the table, how many kids have been put through school.”

“As part of our commitment to our employees and their continued success, we are investing over two million dollars this year in sophisticated machinery designed to support our U.S. manufacturing operation and keep our workers right here at home in Rhode Island,” he added.

Kenney’s Rhode Island facility covers more than 200,000 square feet and employs over 300 people from Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts in manufacturing, logistics, sales & service, research & development. The company also conducts business with hundreds of suppliers across New England.

“Kenney’s commitment to its employees as well as its resolve to adapt to a changing marketplace have made us proud to call them a partner for the past three decades,” said Chris Buchanan, director of public affairs and state & local government relations for Walmart. “The products manufactured here are featured in every Walmart store in North America and Central America that carries the category -- which is a true testament to their quality.”

About Kenney Manufacturing

Kenney Manufacturing Company is still owned and operated by the same family who founded the company in 1914, over 100 years ago. Leslie Kenney, current President and CEO, is the great-grandson of the company founder, and has been active in the company for over 30 years.

Kenney manufactures drapery hardware and bath products and markets them to retailers throughout North America, South America, Central America and the Caribbean. The company’s corporate headquarters is located in Warwick, RI, and includes a 200,000 square foot manufacturing plant employing over 300 people. The company’s facilities in Jonesboro, Arkansas cover 300,000 square feet, and employ over 50 people. Additional information is available at www.kenney.com.

About Walmart in Rhode Island

Walmart Inc. (NYSE: WMT) helps people around the world save money and live better - anytime and anywhere - in retail stores, online, and through their mobile devices. Each week, over 260 million customers and members visit our more than 11,600 stores under nearly 60 banners in 28 countries and eCommerce websites. In Rhode Island we serve customers at nine retail units and online through [Walmart Grocery Pickup](#), [Walmart.com](#) and [Jet.com](#). We are proud to employ 2,500 associates in Rhode Island. Walmart supports local businesses, spending \$744.5 million with Rhode Island suppliers in FY18, which supported 12,965 supplier jobs. Learn more at the [Walmart Today blog](#), and our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), [Instagram](#) channels.

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