

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
& Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
& Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
& Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
& Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairs Shaheen and Rogers and Ranking Members Moran and Cartwright:

Thank you for your ongoing support for initiatives that strengthen regional economies through investments in science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. We particularly want to share our appreciation for the Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs program at the U.S. Department of Commerce receiving a \$500 million appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2023 funding bill.

As envisioned in the bipartisan *CHIPS and Science Act*, Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs enables Commerce to make investments that will catalyze significant improvements in the capacity of regions to compete in the global, technology-focused economy. The U.S. has a few regions that already are world-leading in their sectors; Silicon Valley and software or Boston and biotechnology are two examples. Many regions of the country have strengths in one or more elements of a thriving regional innovation economy, such as commercially-relevant research or a tech-focused industry cluster, but need a catalyst this program can provide to fully-realize their potential as they compete against China and other countries in the global economy.

The need for Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs can be seen from the national response to the Build Back Better Regional Challenge. This initiative, funded through a one-time appropriation in the *American Rescue Plan Act*, asked a coalition of organizations to propose multiple projects organized around a single industry sector in their region. As evidence of the strong interest in a region-wide model like that envisioned for Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs, Commerce received 529 initial applications (of which just 21 received Phase 2 awards) for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge.

As described in the legislation, Commerce will accept proposals from regional consortia of industry, public and nonprofit organization — a mix of partners that will ensure broad buy-in and market relevance — to first be designated as a hub and then to provide funding that is both substantial and covers multiple years. The scale of the funding to be provided is integral to the program's success, as funding levels and duration are critical to encouraging complementary and follow-on investment and activity from industry, as well as foundations, state governments and other institutions.

The \$500 million investment Congress made last year in Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs was an important down payment for the program. This appropriation enables EDA to fully-fund strategy development activities (authorized at \$50 million) and to begin making implementation awards.

Achieving the *CHIPS and Science Act's* vision of a program that will catalyze a new wave of globally-competitive regions, however, requires investment on the scale of the program's \$10 billion authorization.

As you develop the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bills for FY 2024, we ask you to prioritize Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs and provide an appropriation that matches the program's authorized level. The U.S. needs to see more regions leading in the global economy, and this requires more regions at the cutting-edge of important technology sectors. The earlier we make an investment in our regions, the sooner we can see the benefits.

We thank you again for your continued support and consideration.

Nationwide

Angel Capital Association
Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
(APLU)
Association of University Research Parks
(AURP)
Center for American Entrepreneurship
Clean Energy Business Network
Council on Competitiveness
Economic Innovation Group

Engine
Federation of American Scientists
Information Technology and Innovation
Foundation
International Business Innovation Association
SSTI (State Science & Technology Institute)
TechNet
Third Way
US Ignite

Alaska

Launch Alaska

Kansas

K-State Innovation Partners

Arkansas

Arkansas Research Alliance (ARA)
Science Venture Studio

Louisiana

Louisiana Tech University
LSU Office of Innovation and Ecosystem
Development

Colorado

Colorado
Innosphere Ventures

Maryland

BioHealth Innovation

Delaware

The Innovation Space

Massachusetts

MassVentures
The Engine

Florida

Florida High Tech Corridor

Michigan

BBC Entrepreneurial Training and Consulting
Invest Detroit Ventures
Michigan Economic Development Corporation

Illinois

Evergreen Climate Innovations
Illinois Science & Technology Coalition

Missouri

BioSTL
Missouri Technology Corporation

Iowa

BioConnect Iowa

Nevada

NV Governor's Office of Economic
Development

New Hampshire

Manchester Community College

New York

Launch NY

North Carolina

North Carolina Biotechnology Center

Ohio

JumpStart Inc.
Lorain County Community College District
Ohio University
Rev1 Ventures
TechGROWTH Ohio Fund, Inc.
University of Cincinnati

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of
Science and Technology
Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance

Pennsylvania

Ben Franklin Technology Partners
Innovation Works
Regional Industrial Development Corp of
Southwest Pennsylvania
Riverfront Ventures
University City Science Center

Tennessee

AgLaunch Initiative
Aviation Resources and Consulting Services,
LLC (ARCS)
Endeavor Composites, Inc.
Enexor BioEnergy
Infusense Corp
Ultrasonic Technology Solutions
Winter Innovations, Inc.
Yaya Scientific, LLC

Texas

University of Texas at Austin
Waymaker Group

Virginia

The Launch Place
University of Virginia
Verge

West Virginia

West Virginia University

Wisconsin

gener8tor
StartingBlock Madison
The Water Council