

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**

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

### **Iowa**

BioConnect Iowa

### **Missouri**

BioSTL  
Missouri Technology Corporation

**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