

April 10, 2024

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:

America's economic and security needs depend upon our ability to remain at the forefront of technological frontiers—not only identifying the next advances in key sectors but also translating those innovations into the products, businesses, and careers that will shape the future of the global economy.

In the past, the U.S. enjoyed technological and economic leadership across the world, but decades of declining investment in research and development, offshoring of supply chain production, and increasing investment by China and other nations in critical research and markets has left America in a more precarious economic and security position than we have experienced since the early 1900s.

As Congress envisioned in the bipartisan *CHIPS and Science Act*, the Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs program would boost America's overall competitiveness and security by catalyzing significant improvements in the capacity of disparate U.S. regions to develop world-leading centers of economic activity in key technology areas—creating tremendous new economic opportunities for the people in these regions along the way.

The U.S. has a few hubs that already are world-leading in their technology activity: 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 innovation economy, such as commercially-relevant research or a tech-focused industry cluster, but need the investment the Tech Hubs program can provide to fully-realize their potential as we compete against China and other countries in the global economy.

Recognizing the scale of investment that achieving this vision would require, Congress produced a bipartisan authorization of Tech Hubs as a \$10 billion program over five years. Unfortunately, funding for the program has not demonstrated a similar understanding that early and significant investment is critical to America's success, with Congress appropriating just five percent of this amount in the first two years.

The U.S. Department of Commerce opened the first program competition in 2023, and more than 190 regional consortia, comprised of industry, workforce, education, nonprofit, and government partners, sought recognition as a Tech Hub. Commerce designated 31 regions as Tech Hubs across eight key technology areas and plans to provide \$40-70 million to at least five of these hubs during 2024.

While these figures demonstrate substantial national interest and federal action around Tech Hubs, it should be only a humble beginning to what the program must become if we are going to address the threats posed by other global actors to America's economy and security. Achieving the *CHIPS and*

Science Act's vision ensuring global competitiveness requires sustained investment across the important programs created in the legislation. For Tech Hubs, this means dedicated support on the scale of the program's \$10 billion authorization.

As you develop the appropriations bills for FY 2025, we ask you to prioritize Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs and provide an appropriation that matches the program's authorized level—which would be approximately \$5.5 billion as we consider the third fiscal year since authorization. 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.

National Organizations

Association of University Research Parks
(AURP)
Engine
International Business Innovation Association
(InBIA)
SSTI
TechNet
Technology Councils of North America
(TECNA)
US Ignite

Alabama

Southern Research

Alaska

Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Launch Alaska

Arizona

Arizona Technology Council

Arkansas

Startup Junkie Foundation
Winrock International

California

Alliance for SoCal Innovation
Chegg, Inc.
San Diego State University

Colorado

Inflection
Innosphere Ventures

Delaware

BioCurie, Inc.
Delaware Innovation Space
Delaware Prosperity Partnership
Delaware Technology Park

District of Columbia

Curio Solutions, LLC
Future of Work & Innovation Economy
Program, New America

Florida

Miami-Dade County
Research Park at Florida Atlantic University
The Florida High Tech Corridor

Georgia

U.S. Black Women's Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

University of Hawaii

Idaho

Boise State University
City of Idaho Falls
College of Eastern Idaho
East Central Idaho Planning & Development
Association, Inc.
Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium
Idaho State Senate
Idaho State University
Regional Economic Development for Eastern
Idaho (REDI)
University of Idaho College of Engineering

Illinois

ADM
Boston Bioprocess, Inc.
Champaign County Economic Development Corporation
Chicago Quantum Exchange
City of Champaign
Cristobal Valdez, EdD
East Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council
East Central Illinois Workforce Board
Economic Development Corporation of Decatur-Macon County
EeroQ Quantum Hardware
EnterpriseWorks
Harper College
IBEW Local 146
iFAB Tech Hub
Illinois Manufacturers' Association
Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center
Illinois Partners, LLC
Illinois Science & Technology Coalition
MCB Science + Health
memQ Inc
mHUB
MxD
P33
qBraid Co.
SecondMuse
The Bloch EDA Tech Hub
University of Illinois Research Park
Waymaker Group
YWCA of Metro Chicago

Indiana

Northwest Indiana Forum
One Region, Inc.
The Mill

Iowa

BioConnect Iowa

Kansas

Enterprise Center in Johnson County (KS)
Kansas State University Research Foundation

Kentucky

Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation

Louisiana

Biomedical Research And Innovation Park
Louisiana Tech University
New Orleans BioInnovation Center
Tulane University
University of New Orleans Research & Technology Foundation, Inc.

Maine

University of Maine

Maryland

BioHealth Innovation
Greater Baltimore Committee
Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)
PIC MC

Massachusetts

Goody Clancy
QuEra Computing Inc

Michigan

BBC Entrepreneurial Training & Consulting, LLC
ID Ventures
Muskegon Innovation Hub at Grand Valley State University
TechTown Detroit

Minnesota

Greater MSP
Minnesota MedTech 3.0

Mississippi

Innovate Mississippi

Missouri

BioNexusKC
BioSTL
Missouri Technology Corporation

Montana

Headwaters Tech Hub
Montana BioScience Alliance

Nebraska

Doane University
Invest Nebraska
Maize Consulting
Vesta

Nevada

Nevada Governor's Office of Economic
Development

New Hampshire

Celdara Medical
Get Tech Smart
NH Life Sciences
New North Ventures

New Jersey

NJ Manufacturing Extension Program
Rowan University

New Mexico

Arrowhead Center at NMSU

New York

Binghamton University
Synonym, Inc.
Woods Capital, LLC

North Carolina

Cape Fear Ocean Labs
Research Triangle Park

Ohio

GLIDE Incubator & SMART Microsystems at
Lorian County Community College
JumpStart Inc.
Rev1 Ventures
Shawnee State University Kricker Innovation
Hub
The Dayton/Miami Valley Entrepreneurs Center,
Inc.

Oklahoma

Development Capital Networks, LLC
Office of the Lt. Governor
Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of
Science and Technology
Oklahoma City Innovation District
Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance
Tulsa Hub for Equitable Autonomous Systems
Tulsa Innovation Labs

Oregon

Oregon State University

Pennsylvania

Altair Consulting Group
Ben Franklin Technology Partners
Ben Franklin Technology Partners of
Southeastern Pennsylvania
Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia
Fourth Economy
Integral Molecular
PA Department of Community & Economic
Development
Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center
Regional Industrial Development Corp of SW
PA
University City Science Center
University of Pittsburgh
Wexford Science + Technology

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research
Trust

Rhode Island

Connect Greater Newport

South Carolina

South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA)

South Dakota

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

Tennessee

AgLaunch
Chattanooga Quantum Collaborative
Epicenter Memphis
Launch Tennessee

Texas

Medical Center of the Americas Foundation
Texas State University, STAR Park
University of Texas San Antonio

Utah

Utah Advanced Materials Manufacturing
Institute

Vermont

University of Vermont V-GaN Tech Hub
Vermont Department of Economic Development

Virginia

George Mason University

Washington

Life Science Washington Institute
Microsoft Corporation

West Virginia

Chemical Alliance Zone, Inc.
High Technology Foundation
TechConnect West Virginia

Wisconsin

Gateway Technical College
gener8tor
MKE Tech Hub Coalition
The Water Council

Wyoming

University of Wyoming