

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2023

Alejandra Y. Castillo
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Suite 71014
Washington, D.C., 20230

Re: Greater Philadelphia Region EDA Tech Hub Phase I Designation Proposal

Dear Secretary Castillo:

We are writing in support of the Greater Philadelphia region's application for Designation under the EDA's Tech Hub program under the leadership of Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern PA.

Obtaining this Designation status will allow the region to compete for the Implementation Award, which requires the commitment of all the region's stakeholders that can work collectively to build a globally competitive public/private partnership that also demonstrates impact on its community. The proposed focus on Precision Medicine fits squarely with the assets in the region as well as the needs and priorities of each of the partner States.

The proposed Hub is clearly in line with the mission of the Tech Hub program. The region's collective assets and committed partners bring a unique opportunity to the region that distinguishes it from other life-science hubs around the country. The proposed Hub's dynamic solutions can drive and respond across all geographic, population, and economic domains to assure economic stability and resiliency, and to solidify global competitiveness leading to increased national security.

A Tech Hub in the Greater Philadelphia region is positioned to access a large and diverse workforce with the necessary robust infrastructure and supply chains to support the industries of the future. Our offices are deeply encouraged by the existing partnerships between Delaware and Pennsylvania technology leaders and Designation will further increase the exchange of new ideas. The untapped potential of this region has reached a tipping point and EDA investment will help propel our underrepresented communities to full participation in the technology economy and the high-paying jobs it brings.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this proposal and ask that you contact us once a decision is rendered. Should you have any questions, we can be reached through our respective staff members John Gentile in Senator Carper's office at (302) 573-6291, Andrew Dinsmore in Senator Coons' office at (302) 573-6345, and Iris Turner in Congresswoman Blunt Rochester's office at (302) 830-2330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Carper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being more prominent than the last name "Carper".

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Coons". The signature is cursive and elegant, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Coons" clearly legible.

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Blunt Rochester". The signature is cursive and includes the full name, with "Lisa" and "Blunt" being more prominent than "Rochester".

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress