



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 31st, 2023

US Economic Development Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW,
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Greater Philadelphia Region EDA Tech Hub Designation

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for 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. I am asking for full and fair consideration of their application for grant funding.

It is my understanding that obtaining designation status will allow the region to compete for the Implementation Award, which requires commitment of all the region's stakeholders that can work collectively to build a globally competitive public/private partnership that also demonstrates impact to its community. Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern PA is leading a proposal that engages more than 50 partner organizations in the tri-state Greater Philadelphia Region. The proposed focus on the expanded view of Precision Medicine fits squarely with the assets in the region as well as the needs and priorities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

It was brought to my attention that the proposed Hub is 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 Hub structure provides the best opportunity to build an integrated, inclusive, and iterative approach based on technology innovation, and deployment, leading to technically competent workforce solutions that we will develop, deliver, and evaluate. Beyond that, the 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.

It was also brought to my understanding that the proposed Hub aims to leverage the regional assets and ecosystem to advance diverse technologies such as Cell & Gene Therapy, biopharmaceuticals, and 3D-printed implants. It also seeks to create partnerships, promote equitable outcomes, stimulate the creation of local companies, and ensure that underserved communities benefit from health impacts and economic opportunities, all of which will contribute to the region's impact on national economic and national security.

Thank you in advance for the consideration of my views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Donnell Sheppard at 202-225-4315.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chrissy Houlahan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHRISSY HOULAHAN
Member of Congress