

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

Alejandra Y. Castillo
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Re: *Greater Philadelphia Region EDA Tech Hub Designation*

July 25, 2023

Dear Assistant Secretary Castillo:

I am writing to express support for the Greater Philadelphia Region's application for Designation under the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Tech Hub program.

The Greater Philadelphia Region Hub is a strong proposal wholly aligned with the mission of the Tech Hub program. For more than a decade now, Philadelphia's regional economy has been driven by a dynamic Eds Meds & Tech sector, comprising world-class institutions of higher education, nationally recognized health systems, and a large and growing number of life sciences companies. Recently, precision medicine has grown to become a defining feature of this ecosystem. The Philadelphia region's collective assets and committed partners distinguish it from other life science hubs around the country and make the proposed hub uniquely positioned to take full advantage of the Tech Hubs program to become a world leader in this space within the next 10 years.

The Tech Hubs program provides the best opportunity to build an integrated, inclusive, and world-class life sciences industry in Philadelphia. The proposed hub has a stellar list of committed partners, bringing together nearly all of the state and local governments, colleges and universities, health systems, life sciences companies, and economic and workforce development organizations from Philadelphia, southern New Jersey, and Delaware. With a Designation and future Implementation Award, I am fully confident that the Greater Philadelphia Region Hub will be a globally competitive life sciences hub that will further advance the United States' leadership in research, innovation, and biopharmaceutical manufacturing.

As the representative for Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District, I am lucky to have a number of the region's top life science companies, health systems, and institutions of higher education — including many of the Hub's inaugural partners — as my constituents. Because PA-05 is home to so many of the region's life science leaders, my office is committed to ensuring the success of the Hub and supporting the forging of closer connections between the jobs being developed in the region and the people who live here. Precision medicine is a well-established sector of our region's economy, and I am confident that the Hub will help drive continued growth in this expanding, in-demand industry.

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My office is pleased to join Ben Franklin Partners in this effort and I am confident in their ability to lead this opportunity to establish Designation status for the Greater Philadelphia Region. Achieving Designation status will, in turn, allow the Region to leverage its considerable assets and the commitment of all the region's stakeholders to build a dynamic Tech Hub and help EDA achieve the goals of the CHIPS and Science Act.

I encourage EDA to award Designation status to the Greater Philadelphia Region and ask that the Tech Hub program team keeps my office informed about the progress of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Gay Scanlon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress