

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
PENNSYLVANIA

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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 8, 2023

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

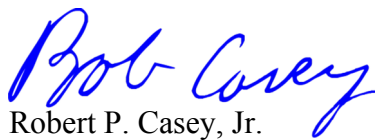
I write today in support of the Greater Philadelphia region's application for designation as a Tech Hub under the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Tech Hub program. I understand that the region's application focuses on precision medicine and seeks to capitalize on unique existing assets in the region to drive global competitiveness, strengthen economic and national security, and promote equitable growth in a critical region. Given that this application has the potential to be transformative for the region and the Nation, I urge you to give this application full and fair consideration.

I understand that the proposed Hub, led by the Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern PA, intends to focus on an expanded view of precision medicine, supporting businesses and employees from first concept to final delivery. Philadelphia's strong base of regional assets in the sector as well as network of committed partners distinguishes it from other potential life – sciences-oriented hubs around the country. However, without targeted, coordinated federal investment, the region faces the risk of remaining a half step behind leading innovation hubs. A Tech Hub designation, and the public and private investment that may follow, would pave the way for the region to level up to true global competitiveness. Further activating Philadelphia's existing life sciences assets with a hub designation would not just benefit the region—it would help ensure that the United States remains at the vanguard of medical innovation well into the future.

At the national level, the Tech Hub program is a recognition of the need to drive growth and activate resources throughout the country, rather than allowing a handful of cities to benefit from the upward mobility provided by easy access to venture capital and jobs on, or supporting those on, the innovation frontier. For the region, the designation provides the opportunity to plan, collaborate, and strategically evolve in a way that benefits national economic competitiveness and national security.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. 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 my staff at (202) 224-4195.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator