

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 11, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

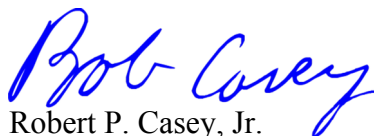
I write today in support of the Lehigh Valley region's application for designation as a Tech Hub under the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Tech Hub program. I understand that the region's application is focused on 21<sup>st</sup> century communications technology and semiconductors and seeks to reinvigorate and expand on legacy assets in the area in order 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 Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation, intends to focus on the development, manufacturing, and commercialization of next generation communications technologies. The communications and semiconductor sectors have rich histories in the region and some of the largest relevant firms have key presences there. From its position at the nexus of multiple technological fields as well as multiple geographic regions, the Lehigh Valley is uniquely poised to grow into a national and global leader in its target sector. 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 the Lehigh Valley's existing assets with a hub designation would not just benefit the region—it would help ensure that the United States remains at the vanguard of communications and semiconductor technology 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