

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
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# 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,

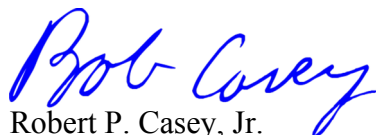
I write today in support of the North Central Pennsylvania region's application for a Strategy Development Grant under the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Tech Hub program. I understand that the region's application seeks support through the Strategy Development Grant to grow within the pressed materials industry and adapt to the global shift toward sustainable transportation. I urge you to give this application full and fair consideration.

I understand that this proposal, led by North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, intends to focus on placing the region at the forefront of the pressed materials sector. Holding about one-third of the world's powdered metallurgy and carbon manufacturing facilities, North Central Pennsylvania is uniquely positioned to lead the Nation's growth and expansion in the pressed materials manufacturing sector. A Strategy Development Grant, and the coordinating activities it will support, would allow the region to identify additional capabilities that exist among its local manufacturers to diversify their portfolios and adopt new technology as well as to address workforce needs, equipment and infrastructure improvements, sustainability approaches, and research and development opportunities that would help the advancement of the companies and industries that are part of this key sector.

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 Strategy Development Grant provides the opportunity to plan and collaborate to ensure they 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, we also respectfully request that you keep our offices informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact the Office of Senator Casey at (202) 224-6324.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator