

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2023

The Honorable Alejandra Y. Castillo
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Economic Development
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Linda Cruz-Carnall, Regional Director
U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic
Development Administration
Robert N.C. Nix Federal Building
900 Market Street, Room 602
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Assistant Secretary Castillo & Director Cruz-Carnall:

We write in strong support of the proposal submitted by the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (ARMI) for designation by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as a Regional Technology and Innovation Hub. Federal investment from EDA would enable ARMI and a complement of local, State, industry and academic leaders to continue development of Southern New Hampshire from a regional biotechnology hub into a global epicenter for biofabrication and advanced medical manufacturing.

As the convening organization of a deeply collaborative and diverse consortium, ARMI has worked for years to provide guidance and encourage cross-disciplinary action for established businesses and start-ups in the engineering, biochemical, advanced manufacturing, robotics, automation, regulatory and medical expertise fields. It has united interests in the once-fragmented discipline of biofabrication and already advanced new life-saving therapies and innovative manufacturing techniques. ARMI's approach accelerates the process from concept to commercialization, and its support reduces the start-up, workforce, regulatory and manufacturing barriers that often compel companies to move their operations off-shore after developing their technologies here in the United States. Advancing and retaining America's bioeconomy from lab to market holds immense promise in improving health outcomes through revolutionary treatments and generating inclusive economic growth.

From its campus in Manchester, NH's Millyard, ARMI has coupled public and private investment – including nearly \$175 million from the Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and, most recently, the EDA's Build Back Better Regional Challenge – to build a strong foundation for this new American industry. Yet ARMI is quickly discovering that demand for commercial and lab space is far exceeding the capacity of one city to support. It is also finding that interest in its wrap-around services is far greater than it is able to accommodate.

Designation as a Regional Tech Hub would empower ARMI to continue its progress in developing an ecosystem that will profoundly change health care for chronic disease and traumatic injury. It envisions a Regenerative (ReGen) Valley Tech Hub centered on the Manchester-Nashua Metropolitan Statistical Area, a vibrant and resilient region with growing diversity and a pipeline of talent. Federal support would help ARMI satisfy climbing demand for commercial and lab resources and overcome the prospects of start-up failure and intellectual

property loss. ARMI estimates that ReGen Valley would account for 10% of global market share for curative therapies, shrink annual health care costs in the U.S. by an estimated 10x, significantly reduce the percentage of families in the region living below poverty levels and decrease the out-migration of talent within ten years of operating in and around New Hampshire's two largest cities. It would accomplish these objectives with an additional focus on addressing infrastructure and community challenges such as access to affordable housing, childcare and transportation.

Federal aid from the Economic Development Administration would help ARMI and its many partners in their efforts to foster intergenerational economic growth, deliver life-saving therapies and propel our country to global leadership in the rapidly evolving and multidisciplinary field of biofabrication. We strongly encourage your favorable consideration of this proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our offices if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress