

U.S. SENATOR
KATIE BOYD BRITT
ALABAMA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
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BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION

August 28, 2023

The Honorable Alejandra Y. Castillo
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 71014
Washington, D.C. 20230

H. Philip Paradice, Jr.
Regional Director - Atlanta
U.S. EDA
401 West Peachtree Street, Suite 1820
Atlanta, GA 30308-3510

RE: EDA - Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs) in the Birmingham Region

Assistant Secretary Castillo and Regional Director Paradice:

I write in strong support of the application for the U.S. Economic Development Administration Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs) Program in the Birmingham Region.

The EDA Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs) Program's mission is to enhance global competitiveness, support local manufacturing capacity, and administer quality job creation in the United States. Institutions like the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Tuskegee University, together with partners like Southern Research, are driving biomedical innovation across the state. The Birmingham region's annual research expenditures are on par with regions like San Diego, San Francisco, and Philadelphia on a per capita basis. Birmingham-based expert scientists are national leaders in oncology, precision medicine, population health, and infectious disease, a unique asset for a Tech Hub based in the Birmingham region.

The Birmingham region would provide the skilled workforce adept in machining, biotechnology, and material science needed to sufficiently operate an EDA Tech Hub. The pro-jobs environment and robust infrastructure of Birmingham and the surrounding area are key reasons it is an ideal location for the Hub. The Tech Hub would also aid the historic and disadvantaged communities in the region by fostering advanced manufacturing and modern job growth. Targeted programs and partnerships with underserved communities and educational institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), will promote economic empowerment and accessibility to high-tech jobs for Alabamians across the region.

I urge your strong consideration of the application for the U.S. Economic Development Administration Technology and Innovation Hubs Program in the Birmingham Region. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator