

CONGRESSWOMAN JENNIFER MCCLELLAN  
4TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

2417 RAYBURN HOB  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

11 S. 12TH STREET, SUITE 401  
RICHMOND, VA 23219



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES  
INTELLIGENCE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

August 8, 2023

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Herbert Clark Hoover Building  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

I write to ask your consideration of Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM), on behalf of the Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (APM) Consortia, in partnership with the Alliance for Building Better Medicine (Alliance) for grant funding from the Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs) program. I ask for your full and fair consideration of their request.

I've watched the emergence of this cluster over the past several years since it spans a vast region centered within my Congressional district and has the potential to deliver tremendous impact and opportunity for the Commonwealth and nation. It's anchored by the extraordinary and world leading R&D work from the Medicines for All Institute, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) College of Engineering and Virginia Bio+Tech Park in the City of Richmond, and by the manufacturing sites under construction or expansion in the City of Petersburg, where Phlow Corp, AMPAC Fine Chemicals and CivicaRx will execute the historic BARDA contract for the nation and manufacture affordable insulin, an initiative that is critically important.

Since 2019, there has been a growing coalition of stakeholders who have worked to build a sustainable regional coalition, a shared vision, and strategic plans to accelerate growth of the cluster, all under the umbrella of the Alliance. Its collaborative efforts and successes in winning the Build Back Better Regional Challenge Award have seeded critical investments that position the APM Consortia for tremendous growth in the coming decade, which could be solidified through its designation as a Tech Hub.

Many areas within the Richmond/Petersburg area are historically distressed and have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating unemployment and depressing income. I have observed the intentional choices that are being made to ensure that the investments in this emerging cluster deliver on a deep commitment to equitable impact as seen through the projects currently underway like a significant collaboration between the anchor universities of the two cities, VCU and Virginia State University (VSU) to open new opportunities to VSU students and build up teaching and research capabilities at VSU, a Historically Black College and University, over the long term; an integrated rural and urban workforce capability building program with a focus to reach the City of Petersburg, where the population is 81.6% people of color in a city that has suffered a generation of economic distress; and a design of multiple educational development pathways by partnered community colleges for hi-tech, high-skill careers which meet industry need and reach into historically excluded communities.

This Cluster has enormous growth potential because it addresses urgent and profound national interests and critical unmet social needs: 1) it creates a secure resilient domestic supply of quality and affordable medicines; 2) it creates novel chemistries and new advanced manufacturing technologies to reduce the time and cost of manufacturing medicines and slash the environmental burden, and 3) makes it feasible for the pharma manufacturing industry to return in force to the US. Again, I ask for your full and fair consideration of CCAM's grant application on behalf of the APM Consortia and its partner organizations of the Alliance for funding via the Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs) program.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jennifer McClellan  
Member of Congress