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Dr. Dov Zakheim

National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology

September 15, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

As members of the bipartisan National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB), we write to urge that the Department of Commerce prioritize investment in biotechnology capacity during the Regional Technology and Innovation Hub (Tech Hub) award process. Greater adoption of biotechnology has the potential to reduce supply chain risk, create R&D and manufacturing jobs across our country, and yield benefits for human health and the environment. Biotechnology has myriad applications important for our national security, including for health, food, and energy security as well as advanced capabilities for our warfighters and intelligence professionals. The United States must continue to invest in biotechnology discovery and deployment to maintain our technological advantage as other countries rapidly invest to close the gap.

We believe the Tech Hub award process presents an important opportunity to maintain the U.S. advantage in this rapidly growing sector and provide significant economic impact. One or more biotechnology-focused Tech Hubs across the country will expand the regional reach of bioeconomy-related prosperity. A biotech Tech Hub designation will also attract additional investment of federal and private funds for regional economies outside that have not previously been centers of biotechnology and biomanufacturing work.

The global economic impact of the biotechnology sector, including advances in biotechnologies, bio-based products, services, and related life sciences processes, is projected to scale in value to \$4 trillion per year over the next 10 years according to a McKinsey report published in 2020. With its key technology focus area in biotechnology, the Department of Commerce can support domestic economic and national security interests by awarding Tech Hub designations to eligible biotechnology-focused consortia.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and welcome the opportunity to discuss future initiatives by the Department of Commerce that are aimed at enhancing biotechnology commercialization, job creation and federal investment in maintaining national competitiveness in biotechnology innovation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jason Kelly, Chair



Dr. Michelle Rozo, Vice-Chair



Sen. Alex Padilla, Commissioner



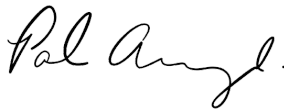
Sen. Todd Young, Commissioner



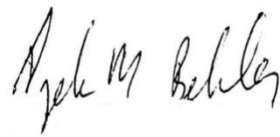
Rep. Stephanie Bice, Commissioner



Rep. Ro Khanna, Commissioner



Paul Arcangeli, Commissioner



Dr. Angela Belcher, Commissioner



Dawn Meyerriecks, Commissioner



Dr. Eric Schmidt, Commissioner



Dr. Alexander Titus, Commissioner



Dr. Dov Zakheim, Commissioner