

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Castillo:

The Indiana congressional delegation is writing to offer our full support for the Heartland BioWorks application to be designated as a Regional Technology and Innovation Hub (Tech Hub).

Indiana has the ideal combination of life sciences expertise, manufacturing excellence, technological potential, and regional and cross-sector cooperation to be named a “biotechnology, medical technology, genomics, and synthetic biology” Tech Hub.

Heartland BioWorks is the result of extensive research into how Indiana’s existing strengths – and potential areas of growth – can meet our nation’s economic and national security needs in this focus area. In addition to the unanimous support of our congressional delegation and Governor Eric Holcomb, this proposal is supported by our state’s key stakeholders, including our higher education institutions, including all three R-1 research institutions; our non-profit community; and leading private-sector voices in critical areas such as life sciences, agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, and technology. In fact, these collective interests have long been collaborating partners in the State of Indiana. With our deep history of public, private, and academic coordination in life sciences, a Tech Hub designation and future funding would enable the collaboration that has existed in Indiana for decades to fully reach its potential.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed many weaknesses in the United States’ ability to respond to a biological threat. Our future economic security and national security are dependent upon our ability to confront, prevent, and treat these threats in the future. The next outbreak, the next pandemic, or the deployment of a biological weapon by our adversaries could devastate our population – and even the world – if we are not prepared.

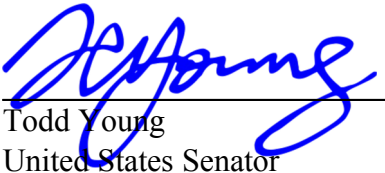
The United States, however, is the nation best positioned to respond, as demonstrated by the overwhelming speed with which our private sector – spurred by public incentives – developed COVID-19 vaccines. Indiana, it warrants mention, was the only state in the U.S. to manufacture all three of the COVID-19 vaccines. As the Heartland BioWorks application states, “Ensuring

that we sustain America's leadership position in the biopharmaceutical sector will require a coordinated effort to: 1) remove lab-to-market and scaling barriers in biotechnology; 2) rapidly grow the domestic bio workforce; and 3) accelerate innovations in biomanufacturing that reduce costs, promote the development of new companies, and expand supply chains to keep pace with bioproduct innovations.”

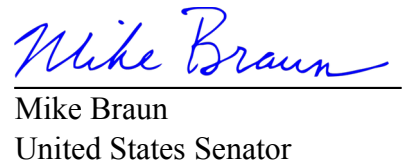
Each component of the BioWorks application – BioTrain, BioLaunch, and BioMake – are designed to capitalize on Indiana's existing advantages. Our expansive network of universities and community colleges will ensure that everyone has access to the training needed to participate in this new economy. Our established life sciences sector will ensure a pipeline of innovative treatments. Our advanced manufacturing heritage will guarantee the drugs of the future are Made in America. And our preeminent logistics infrastructure will ensure that we can distribute the products we make.

We suggest that you will not find an application that is more evidence-based, highly coordinated, and better meets the criteria set forth by the Economic Development Administration than the Heartland BioWorks proposal. We offer our support and ask that you give it full and fair consideration within applicable laws and regulations.

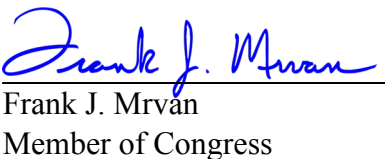
Sincerely,



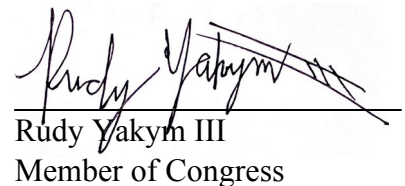
Todd Young
United States Senator



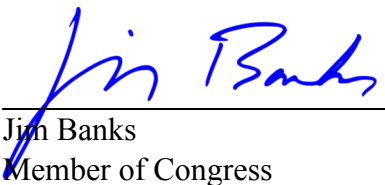
Mike Braun
United States Senator



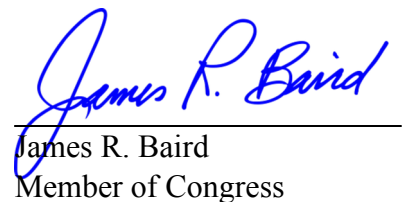
Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress




Rudy Yakym III
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



James R. Baird
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Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



Greg Pence
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Larry Bucshon, M.D.
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Erin Houchin
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