

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-309, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah,

As you develop the Commerce, Justice & Science (CJS) Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2016, we write to respectfully urge you to provide continued and sufficient funding for the promising Regional Innovation Program within the Economic Development Administration (EDA). A targeted investment in this program will help further leverage existing federal resources designed to support the development of science and research parks and high-growth industry clusters – networks of interconnected firms and institutions working to accelerate job growth, business formation and expansion, innovation, workforce training, and small business development.

Recently, the Fiscal Year 2015 Omnibus included \$10 million for the Regional Innovation Program and extended authorization for the program. This is a welcome recognition of the important role regional industry clusters and innovation strategies play in job creation and economic growth, and Congress must continue to fund it sufficiently.

Sufficient funding for the Regional Innovation Program would further support EDA's effort to build regional innovation clusters, strengthening initiatives such as the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge – a competitive grant program initiated in 2011 to support job creation and economic growth in some of our hardest hit communities..

Models of innovation networks exist at the state level and have demonstrated significant results. We believe that federal initiatives and investments must build upon the lessons learned through these models and on the successes being achieved through the EDA Challenges thus far. Providing sufficient funding for the Regional Innovation Program will allow EDA to continue its investment in high-growth regional industry clusters, and leverage other public and private resources intended to accelerate innovation, job creation, and regional economic development.

We know that you have a difficult task ahead of you as you make funding decisions. However, we believe high priority should be given to initiatives like the Regional Innovation Program that

are designed to generate public-private partnerships, stimulate private investment, empower state and local stakeholders, and support economic renewal and job creation in high-growth industries. We respectfully request continued and sufficient funding for the Regional Innovation Program in the FY 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Thank you for the Committee's kind consideration.

Sincerely,



David N. Cicilline  
*Member of Congress*



Randy Hultgren  
*Member of Congress*



Suzan K. DelBene  
*Member of Congress*



Sheila Jackson Lee  
*Member of Congress*



Gwen Moore  
*Member of Congress*



Bill Foster  
*Member of Congress*



Rosa L. DeLauro  
*Member of Congress*



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
*Member of Congress*



Daniel Lipinski  
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
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*Danny K. Davis*

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*Louise M. Slaughter*

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*Mark Takano*

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*Pete King*

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*Ron Kind*

Ron Kind  
*Member of Congress*

*Brendan F. Boyle*

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*Member of Congress*

*John Lewis*

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*Member of Congress*

*Stephen F. Lynch*

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*Elizabeth H. Esty*

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*Member of Congress*

*Matt Cartwright*

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*Member of Congress*

*Charles B. Rangel*

Charles B. Rangel  
*Member of Congress*

*Robert J. Dold*

Robert J. Dold  
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Brian Higgins  
*Member of Congress*



Renee L. Ellmers  
*Member of Congress*



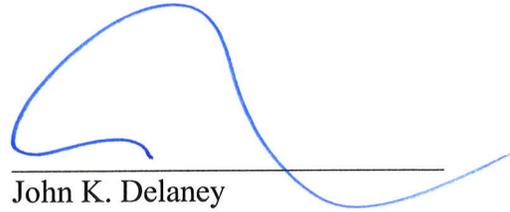
Alan S. Lowenthal  
*Member of Congress*



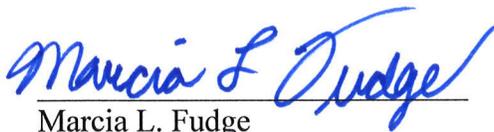
André Carson  
*Member of Congress*



Adam Kinzinger  
*Member of Congress*



John K. Delaney  
*Member of Congress*



Marcia L. Fudge  
*Member of Congress*



Stacey E. Plaskett  
*Member of Congress*



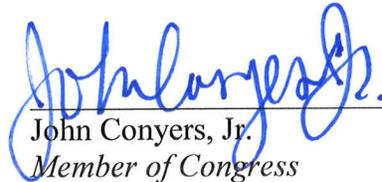
Karen Bass  
*Member of Congress*



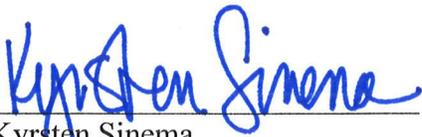
Kathleen M. Rice  
*Member of Congress*



Elijah E. Cummings  
*Member of Congress*



John Conyers, Jr.  
*Member of Congress*

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*Kyrsten Sinema*  
*Member of Congress*