

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 11, 2023

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

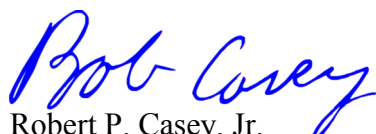
I write today in support of the Delaware Valley Biopharmaceutical Hub for Enterprises, Local Innovation, Commercialization, and Security (DBLHELICS) in their application for designation as a Tech Hub under the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Tech Hub program. I understand that the proposed hub is committed to accelerating biopharmaceutical innovation and manufacturing jobs and infrastructure in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington area. Given that this application has the potential to be transformative for the region and the nation, I urge you to give this application full and fair consideration.

I understand that DBLHELICS is a consortium of public, private, and nonprofit organizations, and intends to utilize the region's existing strengths and investments in biopharmaceuticals and manufacturing to unlock new opportunities to innovate in the industry. The proposed biopharmaceutical hub's strong base of regional assets in the sector as well as its network of committed partners across Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware means it has strong potential as a hub. However, without targeted, coordinated federal investment, the region faces the risk of remaining a half step behind leading innovation hubs. A Tech Hub designation, and the public and private investment that may follow, would pave the way for the region to level up to true global competitiveness. Further activating the region's rich existing assets with a hub designation would not just benefit the region—it would help ensure that the United States remains a global leader in medical innovation.

At the national level, the Tech Hub program is a recognition of the need to drive growth and activate resources throughout the country, rather than allowing a handful of cities to benefit from the upward mobility provided by easy access to venture capital and jobs on, or supporting those on, the innovation frontier. For the region, the designation provides the opportunity to plan, collaborate, and strategically evolve in a way that benefits national economic competitiveness and national security.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 224-4195.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator