

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 3, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

We write in support of the Mid-Atlantic Semiconductor Hub (MASH) Digital Twin Institute (DTI) full application for the Department of Commerce's CHIPS Manufacturing USA Institute Competition. We urge you to give this application full and fair consideration.

Keeping the United States at the vanguard of technological innovation requires smart federal investments in the technology of tomorrow. These critical investments, historically made in institutions like the National Science Foundation, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, have led to scientific breakthroughs that reshaped the American way of life and drove the global competitiveness of American businesses. In 2022, Congress turned its focus to the semiconductor industry and the intense global competition taking place to innovate into the future. Recognizing that this industry provided the building blocks for American technology and therefore both American security and economic might, Congress passed the CHIPS and Science Act, which made sweeping investments in the semiconductor supply chain, from deep research to final production.

One opportunity created by the CHIPS and Science Act was the creation of a new CHIPS Manufacturing USA Institute focused on digital twin technology in the semiconductor industry. Penn State has assembled an impressive coalition of partners to compete for the opportunity. The wide-reaching team of experts includes 52 academic partners, with major nodes at Penn State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Arizona State University as well as collaboration with West Virginia University and education institutions throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Additionally, the proposal includes 129 industry partners, 5 national labs, more than 100 education and workforce development partners, and other critical stakeholders anchored in the Mid-Atlantic but with a footprint across the Nation. All of these valuable partners lend a wealth of knowledge and resources to support our common goal of strengthening the domestic semiconductor industry and increasing U.S. economic competitiveness.

The MASH proposal matches unparalleled expertise and potential with existing capacity. MASH's proposal would build upon the coalition's existing digital twin expertise to foster innovation and help manufacturers get their products to the market more quickly. Additionally, the coalition will undergo coordinated collaboration to support a skilled, diverse workforce, with programs spanning as young as elementary school age to professionals already in the workforce.

Creating opportunities that can be met with a wide range of skills and backgrounds is necessary for the Nation to increase its competitiveness in the semiconductor industry and to support the communities where these efforts are located. This proposal shows strong potential for supporting the reshoring of semiconductor production, thereby increasing both our national security and global competitiveness.

In the region, we have seen exciting progress in the semiconductor industry following passage of the CHIPS and Science Act in 2022. Given Pennsylvania and the region's long history in manufacturing, science, and technology, we are eager to continue to support and uplift the role that the Commonwealth and its national partners will play in advancing American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing and technology. When given a fair shot, American workers can outcompete anyone in the world. In particular, we are pleased to see that Pennsylvania—including the workforce, companies, and world class universities therein—is central to the MASH DTI proposal. We believe that, under Penn State's leadership, MASH is in a strong position to successfully serve as the CHIPS Manufacturing USA institute.

Thank you in advance for consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with applicable laws, rules, and regulations, we also respectfully request that you keep us informed of the status of this application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact Senator Casey's staff at (202) 224-6324.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



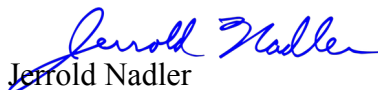
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United States Senator



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



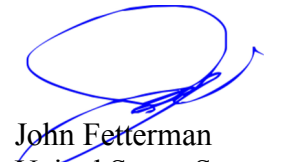
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



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Member of Congress



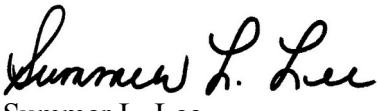
John Fetterman
United States Senator



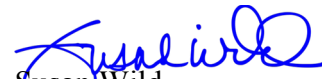
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