

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

August 15th, 2023

Hon. Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Buffalo-Rochester-Syracuse (BRS) New York Semiconductor Manufacturing and Research Technology Innovation Corridor Consortium (NY SMART I-Corridor) for both a Tech Hub Designation and a Strategic Planning Grant through the EDA's 2023 Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program. With this designation and grant, the SMART I-Corridor Consortium is uniquely poised to leverage its robust assets within the key technology focus areas (KTFAs) of High Performance Computing and Advanced Manufacturing to establish the New York Semiconductor Manufacturing and Research Technology Innovation Corridor (NY SMART I-Corridor) and help drive forward stronger semiconductor and broader microelectronics industries for the nation.

The NY SMART I-Corridor Tech Hub will transform the Upstate New York region's economy and create and foster new jobs, and business growth to build a globally-recognized semiconductor manufacturing hub in the next decade. It will do this by leveraging and linking this region's tremendous existing semiconductor and electromechanical advanced manufacturing resources, including: well over \$100 billion in planned semiconductor fab investments, over 100 companies in the semiconductor supply chain or adjacent industries, world-leading scientific and research and development (R&D) capabilities, and a robust workforce and higher education network. Specifically, the NY SMART I-Corridor Tech Hub will propel the Buffalo-Rochester-Syracuse corridor to become a semiconductor and electromechanical supply-chain hub by:

- Attracting new tier 1, 2, and 3 suppliers to locate to the region, including onshoring companies from overseas;
- Providing early-stage funding, technical assistance, and commercialization support to incubate new semiconductor supply chain companies, while helping existing advanced manufacturers make the transition to sell to the semiconductor industry;
- Creating a common platform across labs and universities to share R&D to advance the semiconductor manufacturing innovations needed to make cutting-edge microchips and help fulfill our national security and economic goals of reducing our reliance on overseas microchips by producing more domestically. In particular, no other region has such a distinct concentration of scientific capabilities at the nexus of manufacturing and sensing that can be leveraged to bring the sensing-based automation technology advances needed by semiconductor manufacturers to scale up productivity.
- Aligning the efforts of workforce development and higher education partners to develop the skills-based certifications, STEM education, and training needed to prepare workers

for new careers filling the tens of thousands of anticipated jobs needed by the Hub's semiconductor supply chain businesses; and

- Committing to directly ensuring underserved communities and businesses, such as those historically disadvantaged and underrepresented in the tech sector, benefit from the investments and initiatives of the consortium.

As evidenced in *Jump Starting America's* Technology Hub Index System, which analyzed and ranked the top 102 U.S. metros and determined that Rochester, Syracuse, and Buffalo respectively were the #1, #3, and #15 top metros best poised to become new tech economy hubs if provided federal investment, this region is ripe for technological and economic growth that can be unlocked with this EDA support and help power continued U.S. global leadership in innovation and manufacturing.

The SMART I-Corridor Tech Hub will catalyze the innovation, semiconductor supply chain development, and equitable workforce expansion needed for the Buffalo-Rochester-Syracuse corridor to become a global leader to enhance the quantity and quality of domestic semiconductor manufacturing that is critical to national security and U.S. competitiveness, while transforming the Upstate New York region's economy with new good-paying, high-quality jobs—a high priority for the Biden Administration and the exact goal I had in mind as author of the Tech Hubs program in my original *Endless Frontier Act* and later in the final *CHIPS and Science Act* that passed into law. Again, I am pleased to support this application and appreciate your close consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator