

February 2, 2023

The Honorable Joe Biden President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of TechNet, I write to request that your budget submission to Congress for Fiscal Year 2024 include robust funding for the regional technology and innovation hubs authorized by the *CHIPS and Science Act of 2022* (P.L. 117-167). The regional technology and innovation hubs will inspire a new generation of innovators with potentially life-changing ideas, catalyze startup ecosystems, and reignite local economies in communities across the country.

The 117th Congress authorized and provided an initial investment in the regional hubs, which reflects a solid bipartisan commitment to funding this endeavor. In order to capitalize on this bipartisan support and build further momentum, we ask that you request the full amount authorized by Congress in the *CHIPS and Science Act*, which we will urge Congress to appropriate.

The innovation economy is a critical contributor to U.S. GDP and job growth and drives America's ability to compete globally. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2021, the U.S. digital economy accounted for 10.3 percent of U.S. GDP and eight million jobs. From 2016 to 2021, growth of the digital economy outpaced the overall economy (an average real gross output of 5.6 percent to 1.9 percent, respectively) and, despite recent economic pressure, this growth is only expected to continue. Advancements in technology and digital services have and will continue to impact almost every sector of the economy, from agriculture and manufacturing to healthcare and education. However, much of this growth, and the benefits associated with it, has been concentrated on the coasts. Cities and regions across the country that were once fueled by thriving industries of the past are ripe with potential for economic development.

The tech hubs program will spread economic opportunity throughout the country and open doors for countless Americans. These regional clusters of innovation will empower students, inventors, innovators, entrepreneurs, and workers across the country and accelerate our global competitiveness in critical technologies and techenabled sectors for decades to come.



As demonstrated by the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, Americans across the country are eager to invest in their local communities to build a brighter, more prosperous future. Scholars have <u>identified</u> numerous candidates for the technology and innovation hubs where public and private investments would be transformative.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. Our <u>membership</u> includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over five million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

The U.S. is home to some of the most powerful and innovative economic centers in the world, but it is critical for our economic future that we spread innovation and opportunity all across our country — not just a few cities on the coasts. We look forward to continuing to work with you to build a more vibrant, resilient, and equitable American economy.

Sincerely,

Linda Moore

President and CEO

cc: Shalanda Young, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget

cc: Gina Raimondo, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce