

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

February 29, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

I write in strong support of the Wisconsin Biohealth Tech Hub's application for Phase 2 Implementation Grants funding under the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs) program. The Tech Hubs program was created through the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-167), which I proudly helped to pass as a member of the Senate Commerce Committee. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I also worked to secure an initial \$500 million to fund this program aimed at driving technology and innovation-centric growth and creating good-paying jobs.

The Wisconsin Biohealth Tech Hub is a consortium of 15 public and private partners organized by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to help bolster Wisconsin's leadership in personalized medicine and biohealth technology. With a rich history of innovation, backed by world-class research institutions, a robust Made in Wisconsin manufacturing economy, and the necessary pipeline of new talent to continue growing for the future, Wisconsin is poised to become a growth center in this cutting-edge industry. In recognition of the Wisconsin Biohealth Tech Hub consortium's unique potential, Wisconsin received a Tech Hubs designation in October 2023 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, allowing the consortium to compete for Phase 2 Implementation Grants funding under the Tech Hubs program.

The Wisconsin Biohealth Tech Hub consortium's proposal includes six unique projects that would help support the continued advancement of our state's biohealth sector. One, led by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, would build a database of health care information from a diverse group of patients for use by researchers and companies. Another, led by the Medical College of Wisconsin, will screen for various types of cancer in neighborhoods with high levels of health disparities. The third, led by GE Healthcare, would develop new technologies, including in the field of theranostics, which uses drugs and devices to

both identify and treat diseases such as cancer. BioForward would also lead two projects: the first to expand Forward Biolabs, a biotech incubator in Madison, and establish a similar center in Milwaukee, and the second to help smaller companies pay for services such as legal assistance, business strategy and regulatory compliance. The final project, led by Madison College, would help create more apprenticeships for the biohealth workforce. In concert, these projects represent increased opportunities for collaboration and innovation among key stakeholders – including educational institutions, biohealth companies, labor and workforce organizations, precision manufacturers, and investors – throughout the state. Implementation Grants funding for these projects is vital in helping to increase the Wisconsin Biohealth Tech Hub’s capacity to accelerate advances in health care, spur economic growth in our communities, and create good-paying jobs in the process.

Again, I am proud to support Wisconsin’s application for Phase 2 Implementation Grants funding under the U.S. Economic Development Administration’s Tech Hubs program. I urge the Department of Commerce to give full and fair consideration to the Wisconsin Biohealth Tech Hub consortium’s proposal. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator