Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 27, 2023

Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin,

We write to express our support of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech) Northeast Microelectronics Coalition (NEMC) proposal to the Department of Defense (DoD) Microelectronic Commons Program. If awarded, NEMC would lead the way to new advances in microelectronics research, grow our region's commercial microelectronics sector and connect thousands of workers to well-paid, upwardly mobile jobs.

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassTech has brought together industry and education institutions from Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont to strengthen our region's microelectronics capabilities and workforce as a direct response to the DoD's need to move the most innovative research ideas into full scale manufacturing in the areas of Artificial Intelligence Hardware, Quantum Technology, Electronic Warfare, and Commercial Leap Ahead Technologies.

MassTech is partnering with more than 60 large and small companies, universities, a government lab, and community colleges across the Northeast. The extraordinary concentration of colleges and universities in the Commonwealth along with existing workforce development partnerships between companies and community colleges uniquely position Massachusetts as a leading supplier of the skilled, innovative workforce that will be crucial to powering this hub.

We are proud of our state's robust microelectronics base, which has strong ties to the DoD. In the last 10 years, Massachusetts has seen its manufacturing output grow by nearly 25%, with computer and electronic product manufacturing representing the top manufacturing sector.[1] Our existing infrastructure is positioned to scale to provide the output of research, development and manufacturing necessary to meet the needs of the DoD. NEMC will enable more manufacturers and startup companies to gain access to top fabrication facilities to move ideas seamlessly from prototyping into production.

[1] The National Association of Manufacturers, "2022 Massachusetts Manufacturing Facts," https://www.nam.org/state-manufacturing-data/2022-massachusetts-manufacturing-facts.

Massachusetts ranks seventh in the nation for military and defense contracts[2] and fifth for exports in semiconductor manufacturing,[3] laying a framework for NEMC to facilitate collaborative opportunity in this field. The research, development and innovation the Commonwealth generates has long strengthened our military and will continue to do so well into the future.

Massachusetts' continued investments in growing our innovation economy and diversifying our manufacturing workforce have built a strong foundation for a Microelectronics Commons investment. These resources and capabilities are further complemented by the regional cooperation with our neighboring states to create more opportunities and better outcomes for our economy and regional workforce. Increasing domestic microelectronic manufacturing capabilities will strengthen our state, our region, and the country's security and economic future.

We urge you to give this application your full and fair consideration. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

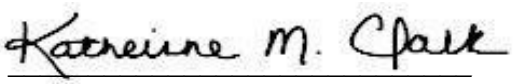
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

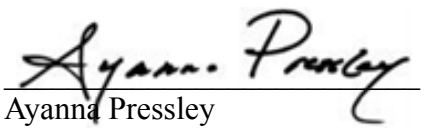
[2] U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, "Fiscal Year 2021 Defense Spending By State," October 2022, p. 4, https://oldcc.gov/dsbs-fy2021.

[3] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes, "Recent Price Trends in the Semiconductor Industry," August 2022, https://www.bls.gov/mxp/publications/industry-pamphlets/semiconductor-industry-facts.htm#:~:text=Texas%20and%20Oregon%20totaled%20%2432.6,value%20of%20semiconductors%20in%202021.

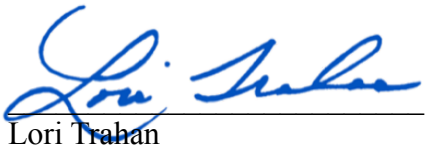


Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress