

United States Senate

February 28, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Austin,

As members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, we write in support of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech) Northeast Microelectronics Commons (NEMC) proposal to the Department of Defense (DoD) Microelectronics Commons Program. This proposal brings together eight states across the Northeast region with a variety of strengths and capabilities that can contribute to the growing demand to move microelectronics from research to domestic production to market adaptation. This supports our nation's defense priorities while addressing the future needs of the region and our country's defense manufacturing base.

This application includes collaboration across the Northeast region with the shared goal of strengthening our region's microelectronics sector to meet DoD's needs.

The United States remains the world leader in semiconductor design, but our manufacturing capacity and capability significantly lags behind other countries in Asia. By offshoring much of this supply chain, we leave ourselves vulnerable to intellectual property theft, supply chain disruption, and counterfeiting. These risks to national security are further compounded by the U.S.'s reliance on Taiwan to manufacture the most advanced semiconductors required for preserving and advancing our most critical defense capabilities such as F-35s, military-grade devices, and artificial intelligence.¹

We are committed to supporting NEMC's success. The Northeast has long been home to a thriving innovation economy, supported by our top academic institutions, highly educated workforce, incubators, precision manufacturing, technology companies, risk capital and entrepreneurs. The NEMC coalition includes more than 60 members of the defense industry, leaders in academia, and quasi-state agencies such as MassTech, the administrator of the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2) program. The NEMC Hub will create the framework to connect the existing and expanding capabilities of the Hub for the benefit of all members. New resources will support early and mid-stage startups, driving down the cost and time typically needed to mature novel technologies. Together, this coalition will ensure that the work done under this program accelerates and complements ongoing work across the region.

¹ Center For Strategic and International Studies, "Semiconductors and National Defense: What Are the Stakes?," <https://www.csis.org/analysis/semiconductors-and-national-defense-what-are-stakes>.

We look forward to strengthening our best-in-class talent pipeline in the Northeast and believe NEMC will be a key contributor to our National Security Innovation Base and the manufacturing that stems from it. The Northeast is best positioned to continue to lead our military well into the 21st century.

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

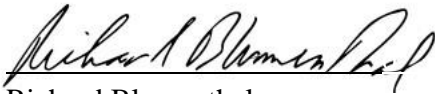
Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator