

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

February 27, 2023

Dr. Kathleen Hicks
Deputy Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Deputy Secretary Hicks,

We write regarding the Microelectronics Commons Southwest Regional Hub, led by Arizona State University, in response to the Request for Solutions for the Department of Defense (DoD) Microelectronics Commons.

The Microelectronics Commons was established in the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act and provided dedicated funding in the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. The goal of the Microelectronics Commons is to address a critical capabilities gap in the United States, and establish a national network that creates direct pathways to commercialization for U.S.-based microelectronics researchers and designers from “lab to fab.”

The tri-state southwest region is ground zero for revitalizing U.S. leadership in semiconductor manufacturing and innovation. This region has seen significant new investments in leading-edge semiconductor manufacturing and is also home to a strong defense industrial base that executed more than \$20 billion in defense contract spending in FY 2021. Bringing together regional strengths in the semiconductor and defense sectors, the Southwest Regional Hub has assembled an unmatched team of private sector firms of all sizes, leading academic institutions, national laboratories, and community colleges, all ready to meet DoD’s critical microelectronics prototyping needs. Led by Arizona State University with Sandia National Laboratory as a strategic partner, the Regional Hub will provide a collaborative forum for regional technology leaders, including Arizona State University, University of Colorado Boulder, and University of New Mexico to accelerate and enhance research efforts in this critical sector.

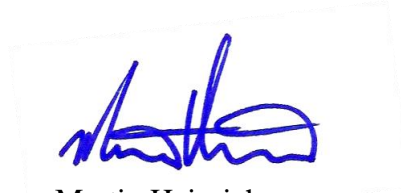
With unique capabilities tailored to DoD mission needs in AI hardware, 5G/6G, and commercial leap-ahead technologies, the Southwest Regional Hub offers an opportunity to bridge the lab-to-fab prototyping gap in the United States while increasing U.S. economic competitiveness and national security.

We respectfully ask that you give the Southwest Regional Hub proposal full and fair consideration as you make this important funding decision.

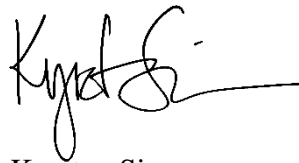
Sincerely,



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

CC:

Dr. Heidi Shyu, Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering

Dr. David Honey, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering

Dr. Dev Shenoy, Principal Director for Microelectronics, OUSD (R&E)