

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 28, 2016

The Honorable Ash Carter
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Carter,

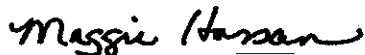
We write to express our strong support for the application of DEKA Research & Development Corporation in Manchester, New Hampshire to host the Advanced Tissue Biofabrication Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ATB-MII). Locating this program in Manchester is a logical next-step for a city with a long history of innovation, strong public-private partnerships and a robust pipeline of students educated in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

The City of Manchester first rose to national prominence as the home of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company which used the currents of the nearby river to power what became the biggest cotton textile plant in the world. Though Amoskeag shuttered its operation in the mid-20th century, its large mill buildings still line the banks of the Merrimack River. These buildings – which once housed technology integral to our country's growth in the Industrial Revolution – now hold companies, non-profits and universities rooted in research, development and manufacturing. Manchester is experiencing this new growth because the city offers a strong foundation where big ideas and large ventures like the ATB-MII can mature and thrive.

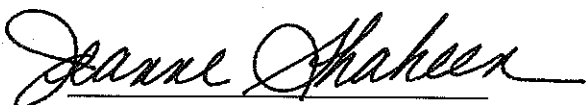
The region benefits from a great relationship between area businesses, non-profits and city and state government who take an active interest in promoting workforce development. Locating ATB-MII in Manchester will create jobs in an area with a number of qualified applicants waiting to fill them. This impact will be sustained by the number of high-quality post-secondary education resources – including the University of New Hampshire at Manchester and Manchester Community College – who understand that STEM education is the key to creating a strong, competitive and innovative economy. Just as they are populating the start-ups and companies inside Manchester, these young graduates could form the core of the Advanced Tissue Biofabrication Manufacturing Innovation Institute and help lead its exciting and groundbreaking work.

We strongly support this application for hosting ATB-MII and urge your serious consideration of its proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor of New Hampshire



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Kelly A. Ayotte
United States Senator