

November 9, 2016

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense  
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Carter,

As the Department moves forward with its plans to fund its seventh *Manufacturing USA Innovation Institute*, the Advanced Tissue Biofabrication Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ATB-MII), we would like to highlight the Georgia Advanced Biotherapy Institute (GABI) proposal, a partnership led by the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), the University of Georgia, and Georgia's health and biotechnology industries. We strongly support this proposal and ask that you fully consider it, recognizing the potential of GABI to address the Department's needs in advanced bio-manufacturing and serve as a catalyst for economic growth, not only in Georgia and the Southeast region, but the nation.

Numerous industrial and academic organizations in Georgia have come together to support this proposal, and GABI is an ideal candidate to host ATB-MII. With contributing expertise from Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, Emory University, Augusta University and the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA), the GABI team has unparalleled expertise and capabilities in bioengineering, biomanufacturing, and technology transfer. Paired with federal agency and industry objectives, GABI will drive the nation toward techniques which will advance innovations in tissue manufacturing, cell and biomaterial processing, bioprinting, automation and non-destructive testing technologies essential to support the development of therapies needed to improve the recovery of wounded warriors.

To maximize the return on investment, Georgia Tech has built and maintained excellent working relationships with many entities in the nation's industrial sectors, large corporations, and small- and medium-sized enterprises that will benefit immensely from an advanced biofabrication epicenter in the Southeast. GABI will see active participation from Georgia Bio (GaBio), a state affiliate of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO).

GABI already has support in this field, with a \$13.5 million investment in the core technologies for cell manufacturing and characterization from the Marcus Foundation to establish the *Marcus Center for Therapeutic Cell Characterization and Manufacturing (MC3M)* at Georgia Tech. Each participating institution and organization has unique capabilities, instrumentation, and facilities, which combined will make ATB-MII a surefire success.

Finally, aside from providing the necessary infrastructure and intellectual capital to develop and commercialize new technologies crucial to the future economic success of the United States, GABI incorporates an extensive professional education infrastructure and partnership with the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), which is Georgia's unified system of technical

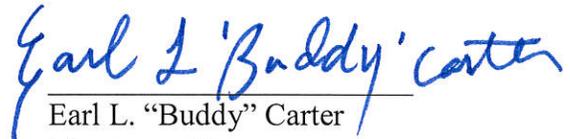
college education, adult education, and customizable industry training. Under GABI, this collaboration will build a cadre of technical personnel trained and skilled in state-of-the-art biofabrication and related fields.

ATB-MII through GABI will solidify the United States as a global leader in biomanufacturing through research, innovation, collaboration, education, workforce training, and commercialization. GABI will help fundamentally transform the nation's biofabrication economy, in both the military and commercial sectors, and create new jobs in its high-tech manufacturing center. GABI will yield tremendous advances this nation cannot afford to lose, and we strongly encourage your support of this proposal.

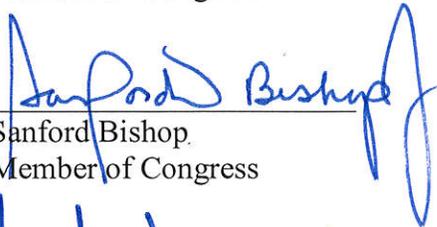
Respectfully,



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress



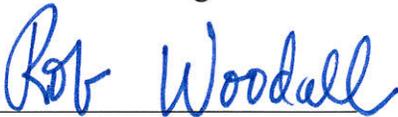
Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Tom Price  
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress



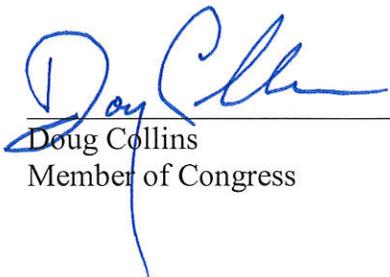
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Doug Collins  
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