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TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SUBCOMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$312,744 for the Valley Internet of Things Initiative (VIOTI) coordinated by the Youngstown Business Incubator in Fiscal Year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Youngstown Edison Incubator Corporation, located at 241 W Federal Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503.

The Youngstown Business Incubator's (YBI) mission is to facilitate the creation of high-value businesses through collaborative partnerships that promote innovative technologies and long-term, sustainable employment opportunities, with a focus on information technology and advanced manufacturing. Primarily serving Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, an area which has suffered decades of job and population losses, the YBI and its partners have successfully leveraged their entrepreneurial expertise and resources to help reimagine the economy of this once thriving industrial area.

YBI is requesting \$312,744 to launch and help coordinate task delivery through partners, such as BRITE Energy Innovators, of the Valley Internet of Things Initiative (VIOTI). This initiative will bring a number of area and statewide partners together to create and implement training and entrepreneurial support programs for Mahoning Valley and Ohio manufacturers, which will ultimately help to retain and re-shore jobs. This training and technical assistance will focus on the opportunity to utilize the power of electronics and real-time analysis to improve business operations and energy efficiency to ensure local manufactures and startups remain competitive on the global stage. A 2020 survey conducted by Youngstown State University that interviewed multiple sectors found that over seventy-five percent of local companies do not utilize real-time data and over fifty percent note that they did not have the expertise or training for adoption. This investment of public dollars will provide key assistance so local manufactures and startups can receive this necessary training to help make them more competitive, which will in turn help launch and pilot their products to grow their business and create jobs.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress