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

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

May 28, 2014

Lee J. Shirey
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
111 N. Canal Street Ste. 855
Chicago, IL, 60606-7204

Dear Mr. Shirey:

I am writing this letter as an expression of my support for the Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI), located at 241 W. Federal Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503 (D&B# 945910073), as they pursue a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce - EDA's Public Works funds to renovate the fifth building on YBI's Tech Block Campus. YBI has a strong history of both supporting start-ups and business attraction to the region. YBI has consistently been able to leverage public dollars into jobs and investment in the Mahoning Valley.

YBI continues to demonstrate its effectiveness and good stewardship of public dollars. When the site for the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute ("America Makes") was announced in the summer of 2012, YBI only had a few short weeks to renovate the Boardman Street Annex and transform it from an unused warehouse to a sophisticated, modern, collaborative facility. YBI met the requirements of the US Department of Defense and completed that project both on time and under budget. As a result, Youngstown is home to a national lab that is working at the national, regional and local level to integrate additive manufacturing technologies into the economy.

A fifth building would allow YBI to build upon its past success. Because of the unique structural features of this new facility, it would be well suited for additive manufacturing firms, as well as for IT companies that have graduated from the YBI program and need more space for acceleration. This space would complement the work of America Makes, which cannot directly house for-profit companies in its building.

This facility will be particularly important to promote the use of additive manufacturing in the metalcasting industry. The high bay, freight elevator and reinforced structural steel would provide YBI with the space needed to locate advanced manufacturing equipment for not only the casting industry, but for other industrial applications as well. This capacity is crucial if the region is going to fully take advantage of the cost and design advantages of additive manufacturing.

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I applaud YBI's aggressive approach to tech based economic development and insight into the needs of the local manufacturing community. YBI's efforts are transforming the face of additive manufacturing in northeast Ohio, and Youngstown in particular.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent horizontal line above the first name.

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

TR:pmw