

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

November 21, 2024

Ms. Liz Young McNally
Deputy Director of Commercial Operations
Defense Innovation Unit
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1010

Dear Ms. McNally,

We write in support of the Defense Innovation Unit's (DIU) efforts to strengthen its integration with the North Carolina defense innovation ecosystem. Specifically, we write to express our support for North Carolina to host a DIU OnRamp Hub to streamline how our state's companies, academic institutions, and entrepreneurs access government programming and funding to better support warfighters.

As our April 2023 North Carolina delegation letter stated, North Carolina possesses strengths and capabilities contributing to a state-wide defense innovation ecosystem, including defense-related research at our top-notch academic institutions and our culture of collaboration making it a prime location for future DIU engagement.¹

We are grateful for DIU's current integration within the North Carolina innovation ecosystem, to include a National Security Innovation Network regional presence, partnerships with North Carolina small businesses, and awards for project prototypes to support unmanned aerial system projects and communication technologies. We also understand DIU has participated in events across North Carolina, including the DIU Regional Roadshow and Federal Technology Symposium.

As you know, DIU has five OnRamp Hubs in Arizona, Ohio, Hawaii, Kansas and Washington State, and forthcoming locations in Kentucky and Montana. With this in mind, we urge you to consider establishing an OnRamp Hub in North Carolina during the next round of expansions to further strengthen the relationship between the Department of Defense and North Carolina's defense innovation ecosystem.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

¹ Letter to Deputy Secretary Hicks and Under Secretary Shyu on North Carolina Defense Innovation, <https://www.budd.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Budd-NC-Defense-Innovation-Ecosystem-Letter.pdf> April, 27, 2023.

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Ted Budd
United States Senator



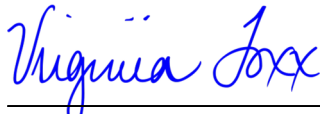
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



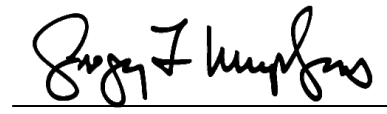
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



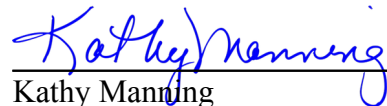
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Patrick T. McHenry
Member of Congress



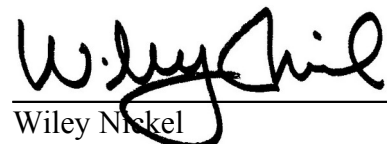
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Edwards', written over a horizontal line.

Chuck Edwards
Member of Congress