

# United States Senate

August 15, 2023

Director Eric Smith  
Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship  
Economic Development Administration (EDA)  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Dear Director Smith:

I write to you in support of the EDA Regional Technology Hub and Innovation Hub (Tech Hubs) program to fund the rural focused “Headwaters” Tech Hub proposal submitted by the headwater states of Montana and North Dakota in conjunction with regional partners.

Montana, mountain and plains states are essential to our national security (food, water, energy) and critical to our national defense, resiliency and preparedness. However, rural states are often passed over as major federal science and technology hubs and centers in lieu of densely populated urban areas. As leaders in the agricultural industry, rural areas will rapidly benefit from the placement of a Headwaters Tech Hub through the synergy of existing partnerships and programs in private industry, research and development, quantum computing, and engineering.

If successful, the funding will allow for the placement of a Headwaters Tech Hub in a rural area, as Congress intended, accelerating research and development of emerging technologies to create jobs and enhance economic and national security.

I trust you will give this application fair and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines  
United States Senator