

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Howard W. Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We write to you in support of the Kansas City BioSecure Manufacturing Tech Hub (KC BioHub) and its \$35 million EDA Tech Hub implementation grant application.

The KC BioHub is the EDA-designated Tech Hub serving the bi-state region from McPherson, Kansas to Columbia, Missouri. Its mission is to strengthen America's capacity to manufacture next-generation biologic medicines, cellular therapies, gene therapies, and animal health products. This is an essential element of national biosecurity, as outlined in the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology report.

The KC BioHub's \$35 million implementation plan will accelerate the adoption of innovative biomanufacturing technologies and rebuild the domestic biosupply chain. The Kansas City-centered bi-state region is uniquely positioned to serve as the manufacturing engine that transforms breakthrough research into the medicines and biotechnologies needed to protect America's health and food supply.

Congress acted decisively when it passed the *BIOSECURE Act* in December 2025, restricting federal contracts with Chinese biotechnology companies. This was an important step toward protecting Americans. Now, the United States must ensure that domestic companies can help fill the gap. Today, 78 percent of U.S. biotech firms rely on Chinese Contract Development and Manufacturing Organizations (CDMOs) such as WuXi Biologics for development and manufacturing. America urgently needs domestic alternatives, and the Kansas City region is prepared to lead.

Unlike other regions, Kansas City does not need to build biomanufacturing capacity from scratch. It already has unmatched infrastructure, including the largest concentration of animal health and nutrition companies in the world. The Animal Health Corridor, stretching from McPherson, Kansas to Columbia, Missouri, represents decades of intentional, sustained investment in life sciences infrastructure that no other region can quickly replicate.

The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas — a federal Biosafety Level 4 laboratory — sits at the intersection of animal health, human health, and national security. No comparable federal asset exists elsewhere in the country.

Regional research institutions, including Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, the University of Missouri, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, provide a robust pipeline for research, workforce development, and commercialization infrastructure ready to scale.

Kansas City's central geography enables two-day ground shipping to 90 percent of the U.S. population, offering a strategic logistical advantage during public health emergencies or national-security mobilizations.

The KC BioHub's implementation plan is specific, ready to launch, and designed for long-term sustainability without ongoing federal subsidy. The region is prepared to take on the challenge of reshoring biomanufacturing and strengthening national biosecurity.

For these reasons, we respectfully express our strong support for the KC BioHub's \$35 million EDA Tech Hub implementation grant application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Roger Marshall in blue ink.

Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Jerry Moran in blue ink.

Jerry Moran
United States Senator