

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 13, 2015

The Honorable Ash Carter  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Carter,

We are writing to express our support for the Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA) proposal to the Department of Defense (DOD), FOA-W15QKN-15-R-0074, regarding a Manufacturing Innovation Institute (MII) in the field of Revolutionary Fibers and Textiles.


To date, the AFFOA team spans 28 states and includes 40 industry partners. AFFOA will enable rapid prototyping of a spectrum of products from fabric-based wearable devices to portable shelters incorporating previously unimaginable protective and energy-harvesting capabilities.

The proposed institute is a public-private partnership that will revitalize the fiber and textile industry. Our states are home to both manufacturing enterprises throughout the revolutionary fiber and textile supply chain and some of the best STEM education and workforce training programs in the country.


AFFOA will be managed by the Massachusetts Manufacturing Technology & Innovation Corporation (M2TIC) with headquarters in the Cambridge, MA technology district and an innovation and training center in central Massachusetts. State and local governments and partner companies will contribute over \$200 million as cost share to AFFOA over its first five years. Together, our states offer AFFOA and the Department of Defense unparalleled resources for the establishment and operation of the newest component of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


  
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Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

  
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Edward J. Markey  
U.S. Senator




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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

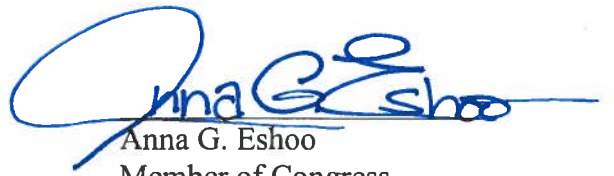


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Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



Tom Reed  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



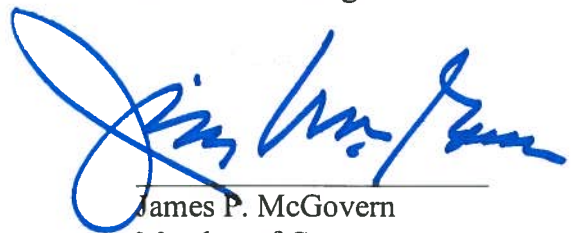
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



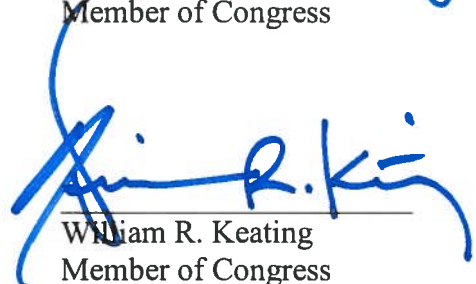
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



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Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress