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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

I am writing to you to express my strong support for the Dubois Center for Innovation's request for funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Disaster Supplemental Grant Program.

Located in North Central, Pennsylvania, the DuBois Center for Innovation is seeking $50,000,000 in funding to support the construction and full-scale buildout of the Center in North Central Pennsylvania. This strategic investment is designed to bolster the regions globally recognized pressed materials industry and represents a commitment to industry driven research, advanced workforce development, and shared technological infrastructure. The Center will serve as a cornerstone for training the next-generation manufacturing workforce, equipping residents with specialized skills in material science, additive manufacturing, and industrial automation.

The strategic significance of this project extends beyond regional recovery; it is a vital component of our national manufacturing resilience. The DuBois Center will also use this funding to support expansion into new markets and applications. Pressed materials already exist within traditional industries, but there are viable opportunities to develop technology for electric vehicles, renewable energy, and medical technology. Through strategic partnerships with the Center, manufacturers can identify new uses for their products, improve performance and sustainability, while increasing market share. This project will help secure and grow the pressed materials industry, expand domestic manufacturing capacity, and ensure that North Central Pennsylvania as a leader in next-generation manufacturing.

I strongly urge the Department of Commerce to give this application full and favorable consideration, as it directly aligns with the administration's goal of supercharging American innovation. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David H. McCormick
United States Senator

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