

U.S. House of Representatives

Rep. Sharice Davids

Kansas Third District

October 14, 2022

Dr. Erwin Gianchandani
Assistant Director
Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships
2415 Eisenhower Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Dr. Gianchandani,

As the Representative for the Kansas' Third District, I am writing to ask for your consideration of the Midwest Microelectronics Collective (MMC)'s Type-1 award application to the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) program.

Microelectronics – specifically semiconductors or computer chips – underpin many aspects of day-to-day life, including medical equipment, cars, industrial machinery, and consumer electronics. But the U.S. has fallen severely behind in semiconductor manufacturing as the domestic share of chips production has dropped from 40 percent in 1990 to just 12 percent in 2020. Currently, competitors like South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and China hold a majority of global fabrication capacity. It is imperative that our country make strategic, sustainable investments to drive the innovation necessary for onshoring microelectronic manufacturing. As you know, the *CHIPS and Science Act* – signed into law earlier this year – will do just that through various efforts, including the NSF Engines program.

The MMC aims to create a new paradigm for microelectronics design and production, using existing capabilities and new technologies. This initiative seeks to establish an industrial base in the Midwest by 2028 by meeting manufacturers' workforce, materials, and innovation needs.

The MMC has engaged with dozens of regional partners to meet the parameters of the NSF Engines program, including local universities, engineering and technology companies, and business stakeholders. They are prepared to help the Greater Kansas City area become a unique driver of innovation. I kindly request that you give your full and fair consideration to the MMC's application. If you have any questions, please contact Emma Swinney in my office at (913) 530-2239 or emma.swinney@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Representative Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Cc: Robert C. Moller, Chief of Government Affairs