



College of Business
University of Nevada, Reno

February 2, 2024

To: Assemblywoman Danielle Monroe-Moreno
Nevada State Assembly
Chair, Interim Finance Committee

RE: Nevada's Regional Technology and Innovation Hub (Supercharging Nevada's Lithium Batteries and Other Electric Vehicle (EV) Materials Loop)

Dear Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno and Chair,

On behalf of the 60+ members and partners of Nevada's Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Consortium, it is my pleasure to provide you and the Members of the Interim Finance Committee with this letter. As you and Members of the Interim Finance Committee are aware, Nevada's Regional Technology and Innovation Hub, *Supercharging Nevada's Lithium Batteries and Other Electric Vehicle (EV) Materials Loop*, received approval and designation by the U.S. Economic Development Administration on October 23, 2023. Beginning on October 23, 2023, members of the Nevada Tech Hub Consortium began working together on developing our shared \$75 million over a five-year period Phase 2 U.S. Economic Development Administration Regional Technology and Innovation Hub application, an application that is due by February 29, 2024, at 4:59 pm EST. Nevada is uniquely positioned to be the only state to offer the nation a true 'cradle-to-cradle' opportunity to ensure long-term national security in the lithium battery, other critical elements, and other EV materials sector.

The Nevada Tech Hub's mission is to aggressively pursue targeted new business creation and attraction and existing business retention and expansion strategies to close 'gaps' in the supply chain of Nevada's emerging lithium batteries, critical elements, and other EV materials industry sector while purposefully supporting broad workforce development strategies, deploy-to-market research and innovation activities, commercialization and entrepreneurship development, infrastructure, community capacity, and housing development, and meaningful engagement with Nevada's Native American and Tribal communities and other underrepresented populations. This mission can only be achieved and further realized through the continued collaboration and partnership among the Nevada Tech Hub's 60+ Consortium members and partners, members that collectively represent all of Nevada's 17 counties. Since October 23, 2023, Nevada Tech Hub Consortium members have worked hard and closely to develop our shared Phase 2 \$75 million over five-year application for the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Over the next five years, we plan to invest these federal resources across the entire state in six broad project areas, including: (1) Supply Chain Enhancement, (2) Workforce Development, (3) development of the Lithium Campus, (4) Accelerated Commercialization and Entrepreneurship, (5) Infrastructure, Community Capacity, and Housing improvements, and (6) development and implementation of the new Nevada Native Nations Center. Each project area will support broad new business creation and attraction and existing business retention and expansion efforts with the larger goal of creating 50,000 new jobs in this emerging sector over

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the next five years. Implementation of numerous actionable items and individual strategies will span extraction, processing, advanced manufacturing, recycling, and even renewable energy production across the entire state and in each of Nevada's 17 counties.

In addition to this summary of the Nevada Tech Hub effort, I have also included here a list of each of our Consortium members and partner organizations:

- Representing ***Community Development***: City of Reno; Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County
- Representing ***Economic Development***: Churchill Fallon Economic Development; Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada; Governor's Office of Economic Development; Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (pending); Lincoln County Regional Development Authority; Nevada 95-80 Regional Development Authority; Nevada Business Environmental Program; Nevada Small Business Development Center; Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority; Northern Nevada Development Authority; Southwest Central Regional Economic Development Authority; Western Nevada Development District
- Representing ***Education and Workforce Development***: Great Basin College; JOIN Inc.; Nevadaworks; Roseman University; Truckee Meadows Community College; Western Nevada College
- Representing ***Government***: APEX Accelerators (formerly PTAC); Governor's Office of Science, Innovation & Technology; Nevada Housing Division; Nevada Office of Workforce Innovation
- Representing ***Industry***: Agilent Technologies; American Battery Technology Company; Aqua Metals, Inc.; Comstock Inc.; Comstock Metals; Dragonfly Energy Corporation; HiTech Minerals, Inc./Jindalee Lithium; ioneer; ITS Logistics; Lilac Solutions; Lithium Americas; Lyten; Manufacture Nevada; Nevada Battery Coalition; Nevada Mining Association; NV Energy; nZero; Panasonic Energy of North America; Q&D Construction; Redwood Materials; Robinson Mine; Rockwell Automation (pending); Tesla; Kappes, Cassidy & Associates (KCA)
- ***Applying Organization***: University Center for Economic Development; The College of Business at the University of Nevada, Reno; University of Nevada, Reno
- Representing ***Organized Labor***: Building and Construction Trades Council of Northern Nevada; Northern Nevada Apprenticeship Coordinators Association; Northern Nevada Central Labor Council
- Representing ***Nevada's Native American and Tribal Communities, Underrepresented Populations***: Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; Nevada Indian Commission; University of Nevada, Reno Office of Indigenous Relations
- Representing ***University Partners***: Center for Business and Economic Research at the Lee Business School, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; the Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities; University of Nevada, Reno Department of Geological Sciences & Engineering

- Representing ***Venture Capital and Development***: Advantage Capital; Gener8tor Reno-Tahoe Accelerator; StartUpNV
- ***Non-Member Consortium Partners***: U.S. Senator Cortez-Masto's Office; U.S. Senator Rosen's Office; U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (Nevada State Office); U.S. Department of Commerce

The Nevada Tech Hub is committed to the continued growth of the Consortium by continuing to add members and non-member partners. As the Nevada Tech Hub transitions from Phase 2 application to Phase 2 implementation, we will continue to expand our consortium by adding members and non-member partners from across the state to ensure the program's benefits have a direct and immediate positive impact on broader national security and statewide economic development efforts. As Director of the University Center for Economic Development and as the Principal Investigator of Nevada's Regional Technology and Innovation Hub, I am very excited about this once-in-a-generation opportunity to work with all of our current and future members and partners as we lead Nevada and the nation into the 21st century and beyond.

If you or any member of the Interim Finance Committee have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me through the University of Nevada, Reno's Office of Government and Community Engagement by contacting Vice President Michael Flores by phone, [REDACTED], or by email, [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Frederick Steinmann, DPPD
 Director, University Center for Economic Development
 Principal Investigator of Nevada's Regional Technology and Innovation Hub

cc: Michael Flores, Vice President of Government and Community Engagement
 All Consortium Members and Non-Member Partners, Nevada Tech Hub