

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

NEW YORK

SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 478  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205  
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
AGRICULTURE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205  
July 13, 2018

Ms. Christine Frost  
Program Director  
Northern Border Regional Commission  
James Cleveland Federal Building, Suite 3602  
53 Pleasant Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Ms. Frost,

I write in support of the application submitted by the State University of New York (SUNY) Canton for funding from the Northern Border Regional Commission's Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment Program. This funding will be used to establish an Entrepreneurship Accelerator located in downtown Canton, New York to help create and grow new business.

In the past, the North Country has relied on large manufacturing companies for good jobs and economic health. As these companies have left the region or closed over the years so have those jobs. As a result, the area's economy has been substantially weakened, unemployment and poverty in St. Lawrence County has risen to some of the highest levels in New York, and population has declined as residents seek opportunities elsewhere.

The requested funding will be used to establish an Entrepreneurship Accelerator that will allow SUNY Canton student innovators and North Country residents to transform their ideas into new local businesses by providing focused assistance to start-up companies. The support and resources offered by the Entrepreneurship Accelerator will significantly improve the chances of a startup's success, playing a valuable role in redeveloping the region's economy. SUNY Canton, with its mission of accessibility and high-quality education, and with the requisite expertise already on campus, is well-positioned to host the Accelerator. Additionally, establishing an entrepreneurial accelerator was recognized as a signature initiative of the St. Lawrence County Economic Development Study, commissioned by the New York Power Authority, as a primary means of adding jobs and spurring economic growth in the North Country region.

I ask that you give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Laura Driscoll, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator