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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

October 12, 2018

Mr. Tim Thomas
Federal Co-Chair
Appalachian Regional Commission
Suite 700
1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I write in support of the application submitted by Triple Cities Makerspace, Inc. for funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission. This funding will be used to increase advanced manufacturing training and STEM education in the Southern Tier region of New York State.

Located in the City of Binghamton, Triple Cities Makerspace is a community workspace where makers of all ages, specialties, and skill-levels can collaborate and create. The organization also functions as an education center, providing both resources and training in the areas of metalworking, woodshop, laser cutting, and 3D printing, among others.

The requested funding will be used to increase advanced manufacturing training and STEM education through a variety of initiatives across the Southern Tier. In partnership with SUNY Broome Community College, Broome-Tioga Workforce NY, and other community partners, Triple Cities Makerspace will develop workshops and training programs to increase workforce readiness in the region. Much of this programming targets students and youth, particularly those in underserved areas. This funding will ensure that more students and workers are given the skills necessary for advanced manufacturing industries in Upstate New York, bringing renewed economic opportunity to the region.

I ask that you please 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