



## Office of the Common Council

City Hall – Suite 110  
401 N Morton Street  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
(812) 349-3409  
[bloomington.in.gov/council](http://bloomington.in.gov/council)

September 22, 2020

Ms. Susan Brehm  
U.S. Economic Development Administration  
Chicago Regional Office  
230 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 3280  
Chicago, IL 60604-1512

RE: Trades District Technology Center in Bloomington, IN

Dear Ms. Brehm,

As the chair of the **Bloomington Common Council's Sustainable Development Committee**, and on behalf of this committee, I write to you today in support of the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) and their application to the Economic Development Administration to fund the proposed **Trades District Technology Center**.

The Sustainable Development Committee believes that this grant application is critical to the economic development and competitiveness of our region through the establishment of a tech-focused commercialization center with future-focused diverse employment options in technology and the provision of physical office space for growing companies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant economic challenges in our region, as it has throughout the nation. As the home for a major university, however, Bloomington has felt this downturn especially keenly. In ordinary times, our region has depended heavily on robust tourism activity and the presence of 40,000+ students as primary drivers of our economy. As we look ahead to a post-COVID environment, the Trades District Technology Center will further diversify our employment base, accelerate the growth of the region's burgeoning technology sector, and allow us to further retain Indiana University student talent post-graduation in and around the region and state. In addition, the proposed placement of the Technology Center within one of Monroe County's four Opportunity Zones will stimulate additional private development within these important investment zones.

The City of Bloomington and its Redevelopment Commission and the BEDC will be excellent stewards of the Trades District Technology Center project, and I strongly believe that it will have a positive impact on the economic competitiveness of the region.

This grant application has my full support and that of the Common Council's Sustainable Development Committee. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue Sgambelluri  
Chair - Sustainable Development Committee  
Bloomington Common Council