

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

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FIFTH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

COMMISSION ON SECURITY  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

August 9, 2023

Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
1401 Constitution Ave, NW, Suite 71014  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Riamondo,

I write to offer support for BioNexus KC and their fellow consortium members in their application to have the greater Kansas City region be designated as a Tech Hub by the EDA, with a particular focus on *Secure Vaccine Development, Scaling & Manufacturing in the Heart of America*.

BioNexus KC is an ideal candidate for leading our regional effort to promote "Secure Vaccine Development, Scaling & Manufacturing in the Heart of America" as they have deep reach into the strong ecosystem of vaccine research, development, education, and manufacturing across the Kansas City region. This grant opportunity will allow the region and BioNexus KC to make progressive advancements to ongoing efforts in vaccine development and manufacturing.

BioNexus KC has worked for more than 20 years to advance our region as a global leader at the nexus of human and animal health benefiting all our citizens and the economy. The region's current focus on vaccine development and manufacturing leverages a comparative strength in animal health vaccine manufacturing and biosecurity/biodefense. By integrating these two advantages, BioNexus KC will accelerate the region's status as a global hub of vaccine manufacturing.

The EDA Tech Hubs designation would provide the KC region with the necessary resources to plan the region's activities and will ultimately accelerate the implementation of those strategies. I'm confident that the outstanding institutions that comprise this consortium will make Kansas City a global leader in vaccine development and manufacturing.

Emanuel Cleaver II  
Member of Congress