



September 24, 2024

Nancy Howell Agee
Chair, Growth and Opportunity Board
800 E Canal St, Ste 1100
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Support for CvilleBioHub's "BioBridge: Developing Talent to Tomorrow's Breakthroughs"

Dear Ms. Howell Agee,

I am writing to express the firm support of the Albemarle County Economic Development Authority for CvilleBioHub's "BioBridge: Developing Talent to Tomorrow's Breakthroughs" application to the GO Virginia Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) program.

Albemarle County, Charlottesville, and the surrounding counties boast a thriving biotechnology industry cluster, with 75 companies in our region. Over the past two years, these companies have witnessed a remarkable 20% increase in jobs and a 30% rise in sector funding. The forthcoming Manning Biotechnology Institute, BioLaunch Charlottesville Biotechnology Lab Accelerator, and the growth projections of several local biotechnology companies ensures the future vibrancy of this sector – and highlights a tangible opportunity for our region to prepare now to upskill our community to prepare them to be successful candidates for the hundreds of advanced manufacturing, laboratory, and research jobs projected.

CvilleBioHub's "BioBridge: Developing Talent to Tomorrow's Breakthroughs" application for the GO Virginia Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) program will help us understand opportunities to better serve our workforce to efficiently and effectively provide training and educational programs to do just that.

The study aligns seamlessly with the Albemarle County Department of Economic Development initiatives supporting entrepreneurship and economic growth strategies in an important target sector. This initiative will further bolster the economic landscape of the area, contributing to its overall growth and prosperity.

The Albemarle County Economic Development Authority has been a steadfast supporter of CvilleBioHub since 2019. In the event that the GO Virginia TPI grant is awarded, we are committed to providing a cash contribution of \$25,000 to support this effort.

We place our utmost confidence in the capabilities of the CvilleBioHub to execute a successful and much-needed study.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to the favorable consideration of CvilleBioHub's application.

Sincerely,

Don Long
Chair/Albemarle County Economic Development Authority
dlong@albemarle.org

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