



July 12, 2022

Dear Bi-State St. Louis Metro Federal Delegation:

On behalf of the Greater St. Louis region, we join together to express support for the authorization of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) and the Biden Administration’s expressed desire to locate the new agency outside of the Washington, D.C. metro area. We encourage your advocacy of locating the new facility in the St. Louis bi-state metro which has been at the forefront of health innovation for decades. This opportunity aligns with a key recommendation of the *STL 2030 Jobs Plan* to make the St. Louis metro a hub for next-generation industries by “quadrupling down on bioscience in order to supercharge this established industry cluster.”

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 (H.R. 2471) appropriated \$1 billion for the establishment of ARPA-H. ARPA-H will support a broad array of high-risk, high-reward research from medications to artificial intelligence. The agency will also focus on health equity and reducing health disparities.

The St. Louis region is tailor-made for ARPA-H and its objective to collaborate and innovate with the best scientific minds in the world. For decades, the nation has looked to the St. Louis metro to solve global health challenges. Most recently, scientists at Pfizer’s St. Louis facility played a crucial role in creating its COVID-19 vaccine. Our metro is home to several world-class research institutions including Washington University and Saint Louis University. Four major health systems -- BJC HealthCare, Mercy, SSM Health, and Ascension – are based here. Mallinckrodt, Millipore Sigma, Evernorth, Centene, and other global corporations focused on healthcare delivery and research call the St. Louis metro home.

The bi-state St. Louis metro has a long history of working with NIH. Just in FY2021, NIH provided \$685 million in funding to organizations in the St. Louis, MO-IL MSA, corresponding to \$244 per capita in the MSA compared to \$97 per capita nationally. Much of this activity is anchored around the Washington University School of Medicine, which ranked 6th in the nation for research in 2021. Other advantages of the St. Louis metro include our central location, quality of life, low cost of living, our already established health sciences and biosciences sectors, and our growing advanced manufacturing and geospatial sectors.

According to former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, ARPA-H will focus on improving health equity and reducing health disparities. Collaboration on this important issue is already underway between our healthcare sector and growing geospatial sector to reduce health disparities and offer healthcare service delivery to those in unserved and underserved areas of our metro.

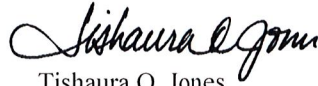
As you know, locating ARPA-H in the St. Louis metro would have profound benefits to the region. We urge you to support the authorization of ARPA-H and encourage your leadership and advocacy in having

the St. Louis metro chosen as the ARPA-H location. We look forward to the opportunity to identify St. Louis metro sites for consideration once more details of facility needs are known.


Sincerely,



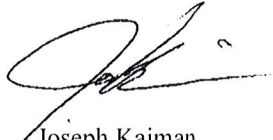
Adam Boudouris
Board Chairman
Bond County, IL



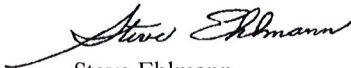
Tishaura O. Jones
Mayor
City of St. Louis, MO



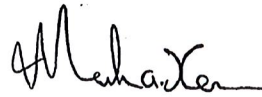
Tim Brinker
Presiding Commissioner
Franklin County, MO



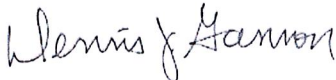
Joseph Kaiman
Presiding Commissioner
Lincoln County, MO



Steve Ehlmann
County Executive
St. Charles County, MO



Mark Kern
Board Chairman
St. Clair County, IL



Dennis Gannon
County Executive
Jefferson County, MO



Dennis Knobloch
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Monroe County, IL



Jason R. Hall
CEO
Greater St. Louis, Inc.



Sam Page
County Executive
St. Louis County, MO

CC:

The Honorable Dick Durbin
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Josh Hawley
The Honorable Mike Bost
The Honorable Cori Bush

The Honorable Rodney Davis
The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer
The Honorable Mary Miller
The Honorable Jason Smith
The Honorable Ann Wagner