

November 2, 2023

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren:

The Quantum Economic Development Consortium (QED-C) wholeheartedly supports the National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act and applauds the bipartisan work of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to ensure United States leadership in the critical and emerging field of quantum information science, engineering, and technology.

Since its inception in 2018, the National Quantum Initiative (NQI) has established a robust multiagency program that has built a broad research foundation that will not only advance scientific understanding but will serve as a wellspring for applications that provide economic competitiveness, national security, and societal benefit. Moreover, the growing academic research portfolio produces graduates with diverse specializations who will be essential to the growing workforce in industry and research laboratories.

The Act provides for timely and important updates and additions to the original NQI. It balances the need for sustained investment in fundamental research with the development of practical applications in the near- and mid-term. The incentives for stronger collaboration among researchers in academia and national laboratories and industry called for in the Act will help to grow the quantum economy, creating revenue for the “quantum makers” and value for the “quantum takers”.

The Act also calls for greater international collaboration with allies and partners. Quantum technology innovation is taking place globally and competition is fierce. The United States cannot “go it alone” and maintain a lead in quantum computing, communications, networking, sensing, cybersecurity, and associated enabling technologies. Barriers to trade, collaboration, and flow of talent present risks to the nascent industry and its supply chain.

Finally, the Act takes steps to grow the talent pipeline by attracting diverse and under-represented groups and educating workers at all levels—from technicians to post-docs—to meet the broad needs of the quantum ecosystem.

Over the first five years of the NQI, QED-C has created a trusted community from across the “quantum stack” and around the world, comprising approximately 250 members including over 175 corporations developing systems and components for computing, communications, and sensing. QED-C, managed by SRI International, has a mission to build a robust quantum industry and supply chain, including by identifying use cases and gaps that need to be filled and industry-backed strategies to fill the gaps. QED-C is a resource that is ready, willing, and able to support those agencies with a focus on research and development as well as those considering the application of quantum technologies toward their mission.

QED-C calls upon the House and Senate to pass the National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act and fully fund the program in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celia Merzbacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Celia" being more prominent than the last name "Merzbacher".

Celia Merzbacher
Executive Director
Quantum Economic Development Consortium