

Ben Franklin
Technology Partners
Southeastern Pennsylvania

Building 100 Innovation Center
4801 S. Broad Street, Suite 200
The Navy Yard
Philadelphia, PA 19112

November 10, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

Recently, the CEO Council for Growth in the Greater Philadelphia area wrote to you urging Program Authority and Budget Support for the newly created Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The Board of Directors of the Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania (BFTP/SEP) strongly supports that recommendation.

The BFTP/SEP is one of four Ben Franklin Technology Partners in Pennsylvania. For more than 25 years, the BFTPs have distinguished themselves as a national and international model for technology-driven entrepreneurship, and have worked in partnership with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to grow successful technology enterprises in ways that have strengthened our respective regions' innovation infrastructure.

We do this by partnering with area universities to create new commercialization models, by working with the larger corporations in our region to assist with their innovation strategies, and by working with other non-profit organizations both to craft and implement comprehensive technology-based economic development strategies and to seed and support new entrepreneurship-focused efforts. Most critically, we seed and invest in more start up and early stage technology ventures than any other organization and we have led efforts to create private venture funds.

We concur with the CEO Council for Growth that a strong federal partnership with state, local and private sector initiatives is long past due. The lack of a clear framework for technology-based growth has resulted in fragmented efforts that are unable to achieve critical mass or partner effectively across multi-state, economic regions. We believe that there is an opportunity to leverage the years of practical experience...of the BFTPs and of others...to craft approaches that build on prior accomplishments to strengthen our nation's capacity for reinvention and innovation...necessary elements for a robust economy.

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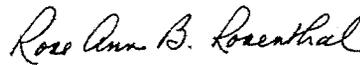
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We offer our assistance and urge you to move quickly to fulfill the promise of this new office, whose announcement has sent a positive signal to many committed to growth through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Keith, Jr., Chairman, BFTP/SEP
Managing General Partner TL Ventures



RoseAnn B. Rosenthal
President and CEO, BFTP/SEP

- c: The Honorable Aneesh Chopra, United States Chief Technology Officer
- The Honorable John R. Fernandez, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development
- The Honorable Jon S. Corzine, Governor of the State of New Jersey
- The Honorable Jack A. Markell, Governor of the State of Delaware
- The Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- The Honorable Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia
- Greater Philadelphia Tri-State Congressional Delegation
- The Honorable Secretary George E. Cornelius, Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development
- Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania Board of Directors
- Robert C. Wonderling, President and CEO, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
- Thomas G. Morr, President and CEO, Select Greater Philadelphia
- Russel E. Kaufman, MD, President and CEO, Wistar Institute