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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
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Congress of the United States
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June 18, 2020

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dana Gartzke
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
for Economic Development
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

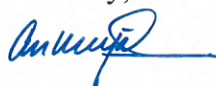
Dear Secretary Ross and Assistant Secretary Gartzke:

I am pleased to write to you today in support of the application submitted by MAGNET for the Economic Development Administration's CARES Act Recovery Assistance. MAGNET, the central organization overseeing manufacturing innovation and development for Northeast Ohio, seeks \$650,000 to implement a program to help over 200 small- and medium-sized manufacturers in Cuyahoga County rebound from the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The requested federal funds will be matched by \$130,000 in non-federal funding. Of note, much of this work will occur in Opportunity Zones in Cleveland and surrounding suburbs.

One in five jobs in Northeast Ohio is in the manufacturing industry, which supports nearly 50 percent of our region's economy. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the unemployment rate in Cuyahoga County to increase from 4.5 percent to an estimated 23.3 percent. The program proposed by MAGNET will retain 500 jobs, create 100 new jobs, and facilitate \$10 million in new investment. As the Northeast Ohio affiliate of the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MAGNET has a proven history of success in ensuring that manufacturers have the tools they need to create new products, increase revenue, and compete in the global economy. As part of the proposed program, MAGNET will provide technical assistance developed especially for small manufacturing businesses to assess worker safety, improve internal operations, evaluate product mix and origination, enhance marketing, and prevent hackers and other cybersecurity threats.

MAGNET will partner with a number of Ohio stakeholders including state and local units of government, institutions of higher education, economic and workforce development organizations, federal labs, and local nonprofits to offer our manufacturers a comprehensive plan with a tangible return on the federal investment. Consistent with all applicable laws and regulations, we urge your full and fair consideration of Gateway's application. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress