

August 1, 2012

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rahall:

Administrator Mills asked me to respond to your recent letter of support for the Advanced Manufacturing Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge (JIAC) grant application submission.

The JIAC is an inter-agency funding opportunity designed by the Taskforce for the Advancement of Regional Innovation Clusters, in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), as well as other Federal agencies and departments. The SBA believes that supporting regional innovation clusters across the country will increase opportunities for small businesses and lead to job creation and economic growth.

The JIAC applications have been received, and the review and selection process has begun. Successful applicants should expect to receive grant awards within approximately 70 days from the application closing date. Notification for all JIAC awards will be posted at <http://www.sba.gov/clusters>.

We appreciate your support of the West Virginia small business community. If you and your staff have any questions, please contact our Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-6700.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Chodos  
Associate Administrator  
For the Office of Entrepreneurial Development