



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

JON TESTER
MONTANA

Hello, this is Senator Jon Tester.

As you know, we received some big news this week. After a long fight, we finally landed the highly competitive Tech Hub designation, opening the door for Montana to lead the nation in innovation, harnessing the power of cutting-edge research, business, and technology.

After beating out just under 200 applications from other states – securing a tech hub means significantly increased R&D dollars for our universities and businesses; boosted manufacturing capacity; more good paying jobs across Montana; and the opportunity to compete for millions of dollars to bolster our growing technology sector.

This all started with my bipartisan *CHIPS and Science Act* – a bill that we passed to boost manufacturing capacity in the United States and compete with China.

I don't have to tell this group that innovation can come from anywhere – just look at our world class universities, our booming photonics sector, and the tireless work ethic of folks in Big Sky Country, which is why I fought for an amendment that ensured a rural state like Montana could be selected as a regional tech hub.

And then when the President signed the bill into law, we immediately got to work on forming an application group. We gathered business leaders, education experts, and workforce development groups from across the state to create a game plan. We formed a successful application group named the Headwaters Tech Hub Consortium.

And when the time came, I leaned hard on the administration, and encouraged them to look closely at the good work being done in Montana.

Now, we're about to see the Headwaters Tech Hub take off with \$450,000 in strategy development funds to help the project get off the ground. Not only is this big news for our growing small businesses and for Montana's economy, but it means that we're going to be on the cutting edge of innovation globally.

Montana will be directly helping the nation compete with China, and we'll be creating technology to strengthen our national defense capabilities with laser and photonics technology.

So, thank you for your support, and I look forward to our continued partnership on this project.–Keep up the great work, and please know my door is always open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Tester".

U.S. Senator Jon Tester