



July 12, 2016

The Honorable Penny Pritzker  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

On behalf of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE), we are pleased to report a unanimous vote to further our research on place-based innovation initiatives by means of two "**Community Exchanges**" in Austin, Texas and Chicago, Illinois.

Over the past 20 months, NACIE has become increasingly interested in location-based initiatives. The Council held their 2016 spring meeting in Nashville, TN where they engaged in a two-way exchange with city leaders and local entrepreneurs to better understand how the city has come together to support its thriving entrepreneurship initiatives. One significant finding from this trip, was how challenging it is to scale the best local programs due to a lack of resources, networks or knowledge.

To help more communities benefit from already proven best practices in place-based innovation and entrepreneurship, NACIE has voted to pursue research in scaling place-based innovation initiatives by visiting Austin, Texas and Chicago, Illinois to solicit ideas from more local leaders. These visits will give the Council the insight necessary to develop effective recommendations to scale local solutions on a regional or national platform.

NACIE will provide these recommendations by October, 2016 for consideration by the Department of Commerce and in preparation for transition to the new Council, convening in early October.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Michael Burcham".

Dr. Michael Burcham  
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "James P. Clements".

Dr. James Clements  
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Marie T. Lynch".

Marie Lynch  
Co-Chair