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California State Senate

SENATOR
JOSH BECKER

THIRTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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April 25, 2022

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
1530 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Funding Request for the Society for Brain Mapping & Therapeutics (SBMT)

Dear Senator Gomez,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support on behalf of the Society for Brain Mapping & Therapeutics (SBMT) federal funding request to build the first Brain Technology and Innovation Park (BTIP) in Los Angeles. BTIP will neighbor LA County + USC Hospital, which is a designated federal opportunity zone. SBMT is an organization with a network of 100,000 expert scientists, researchers and engineers that are at the forefront of neurotechnology policy, scientific discoveries, and technological development in the field of clinical and translational neuroscience. SBMT has introduced state-of-the-art science and technology to the wounded soldiers, veterans, and civilians in the last twenty years. SBMT has been instrumental in the design, formulation, and execution of President Obama's BRAIN initiative, G20/Neuroscience20 initiative and California's Brain Technology and Innovation Park (BTIP).

The Brain Technology and Innovation Park is an initiative that will connect the Silicon Valley to Los Angeles by way of fostering growth and collaboration in the biotechnology space. A federal budget appropriation will fund the development of a state-of-the-art GMP facility, wet labs, dry labs, animal, imaging device core facilities, manufacturing and incubator that will focus on fast-tracking therapeutics, diagnostics, medical devices, and pharmaceuticals in connection with neurological, neuropsychiatric, and spinal disorders.

Neurological diseases or injuries, including brain and spinal cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease adversely impact American families and the economy. In fact, the economic burden due to neurological disorders is \$1.5 Trillion annually to the United States (Kateb et al, Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, 2021). It cannot be overstated enough—the federal government must act to provide relief to reduce the human and financial burden on our nation.

Moreover, consistent with the state of California's effort to support innovation and job creation, it is important to make critical federal investments to propel economic growth in California. To this end, a federal budget appropriation is necessary in order to support innovation in neurotechnology,

bring forth medical breakthroughs, and provide job opportunities. A federal investment will help fund research, development and commercialization of life-saving therapeutics, construction of the state-of-the-art facility, provide job certification programs and job opportunities with renowned biotechnology and healthcare companies such as Philips Healthcare, Celularity, Medtronic, Stryker, Globus, Olympus, Applied Neuroscience, Novarad, Orthofix, Abbott, Brainscope, IntellDNA, Microsoft, Intel, AiM Med Robotics, Raumedics, and Fulgent Genetics, to name a few amongst 700 companies in the SBMT's industry network.

According to BIOCOM, the Life Sciences Industry contributes significantly to the economy. In fact, Life Sciences Industry directly and indirectly provides over 195,000 jobs with average annual earnings of \$86, 501. Federal government support means that already existing R&D could be housed and supported in BTIP to ultimately help spin-off companies. Consequentially, companies could employ Californians and further propel the economy making California the capital of neurotechnology.

As you consider your federal appropriation requests, be reminded that this investment is a commitment to reduce healthcare costs, an investment in innovation and medical breakthroughs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Becker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Josh Becker
State Senator, 13th District