



March 10, 2023

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:

I am writing on behalf of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce to express my support for Northeastern University Arlington's pursuit of Artificial Intelligence (AI) equipment acquisition for educational, workforce, cybersecurity, and defense applicability. Funding for AI equipment will better equip the workforce of Arlington and the Washington metropolitan area.

Our regional workforce will need to know how to implement and operate AI technology as a growing number of employers implement these systems nationwide. We are fully in support of this acquisition, as we believe it can address key issues related to economic competitiveness. Northern Virginia governments and institutions of higher education can and should be more proactive in training and equipping workers to operate in the expanding AI sector.

With the creation of the Kostas Research Institute (KRI) space in Arlington, the purchase of equipment to be placed in a lab in partnership with community and local industry access will increase our region's capacity to prepare our workforce for the future of AI. The equipment purchased with Congressional Direct Spending (CDS) funds will be appropriately maintained and shared with community stakeholders to provide opportunities for cutting edge research and in-demand training with direct application to Rosslyn's tech industry for people who want to live and work in the area.

This equipment will bolster Northern Virginia's continued leadership as a technological hub, and investing in innovation and workforce development supports our economic resilience. We fully support Northeastern University's ongoing efforts to create a space with the equipment needed to educate students, community members, and industry leaders in the interest of technological advancement, workforce agility, and economic development.

Thank you for your consideration of this CDS request, and for being a champion of innovation for Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO