



March 10, 2025

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

Dear Senator Kaine,

On behalf of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for Northeastern University Arlington's pursuit of funding, through Congressional Direct Spending (CDS), to acquire artificial intelligence (AI) equipment for educational, workforce, cybersecurity, and defense applicability. This funding will better equip the workforce of Arlington and Northern Virginia with key skills for tomorrow's economy and bolster the region's leadership as a technological hub.

Operating and utilizing AI technology is an increasingly important skill set for our workforce across many different sectors. A growing number of employers intend to increase the use and implementation of AI systems, both regionally and nationally. With the creation of the Kostas Research Institute (KRI) space at Northeastern's Arlington campus, AI equipment can be shared and utilized in partnership with the community and our local industry to increase opportunities for Arlington's and Northern Virginia's workforce to learn how to best use AI tools. We support this acquisition of funds to enhance the economic competitiveness of our local and regional workforce.

The acquisition of this equipment will bolster Northern Virginia's continued leadership as a technological hub, and investing in innovation and workforce development supports our economic resilience. The equipment will be properly maintained and shared with community stakeholders to provide opportunities for innovative research and in-demand training. This research and training would have direct applications specifically for Arlington's emerging and growing tech sector.

We support Northeastern University's ongoing efforts to create a space with AI equipment needed to educate students, community members, and industry leaders in the interest of technological advancement, workforce development, and economic growth. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Kate Bates
President & CEO