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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
December 23, 2017

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U. S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Honorable Ross,

I have been informed that the Biomedical Research Foundation (BRF) is applying for funding through the Economic Development Assistance(EDA) Programs- Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. I am told the \$600,000 grant will be matched by local funds to assist BRF to expand its Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program(EAP).

Presently the BRF serves Caddo Parish in Louisiana by serving as a one-stop business accelerator for innovative small businesses. The grant will enable BRF to launch the Northern Louisiana Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program (NorLEAP). I understand NorLEAP will expand BRF's present one-parish focus to 29 parishes in north Louisiana by matching companies with industry experts who will provide hands-on, industry-specific guidance in all aspects of building and growing each entrepreneur's particular business. According to BRF officials, these efforts will save or create over 200 jobs and generate \$15 million in revenue in the first 24 months in some of the most distressed areas in the state.

I applaud all efforts to enhance job creation and economic development and ask that you give full consideration to their proposal. I may be reached with any questions through Leslie Quinn at 318-840-0309. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Johnson" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

MIKE JOHNSON
Member of Congress

MJ/lq