

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To strengthen American economic resiliency and equitably expand economic opportunity by launching a national competition, promoting state and local strategic planning, encouraging innovation by the public and private sectors, and by substantially investing federal resources in research and development.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To strengthen American economic resiliency and equitably expand economic opportunity by launching a national competition, promoting state and local strategic planning, encouraging innovation by the public and private sectors, and by substantially investing federal resources in research and development.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Innovation Centers Ac-
5 celeration Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) COMMITTEE.—The term “Committee”
4 means the Innovation Center Selection Committee
5 established under section 3.

6 (2) ELIGIBLE AREA.—The term “eligible area”
7 means a metropolitan statistical area that—

8 (A) has a population of not less than
9 500,000; and

10 (B) is not designated as an established
11 tech hub.

12 (3) ESTABLISHED TECH HUB.—The term “es-
13 tablished tech hub” means the 9 metropolitan statis-
14 tical areas in the United States with the largest
15 total number of innovation sector jobs in 2019.

16 (4) HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
17 term “Hispanic-serving institution” has the meaning
18 given the term in section 502 of the Higher Edu-
19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a).

20 (5) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
21 VERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or
22 university” has the meaning given the term “part B
23 institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education
24 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

1 (6) INNOVATION CENTER.—The term “innova-
2 tion center” means an eligible area designated by
3 the Committee under section 3(e).

4 (7) INNOVATION SECTOR JOB.—The term “in-
5 novation sector job” means a job in the following re-
6 search and development sectors, as categorized
7 under the North American Industry Classification
8 System:

9 (A) Basic chemical manufacturing (3251).

10 (B) Pesticide, fertilizer, and other agricul-
11 tural chemical manufacturing (3253).

12 (C) Pharmaceutical and medicine manufac-
13 turing (3254).

14 (D) Computer and peripheral equipment
15 manufacturing (3341).

16 (E) Communications equipment manufac-
17 turing (3342).

18 (F) Semiconductor and other electronic
19 components manufacturing (3344).

20 (G) Navigational, measuring,
21 electromedical, and control instruments manu-
22 facturing (3345).

23 (H) Aerospace product and parts manufac-
24 turing (3364).

25 (I) Software publishers (5112).

1 (J) Satellite telecommunications (5174).

2 (K) Data processing, hosting, and related
3 services (5182).

4 (L) Other information services (5191).

5 (M) Scientific research and development
6 services (5417).

7 (8) STEM.—The term “STEM” means science,
8 technology, engineering, and mathematics.

9 **SEC. 3. INNOVATION CENTER SELECTION COMMITTEE.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Inno-
11 vation Center Selection Committee, which shall—

12 (1) establish the global competitive edge of the
13 United States in the 21st century across a range of
14 innovation sectors critical to national and economic
15 security;

16 (2) enable 9 metropolitan statistical areas in
17 the United States to become innovation centers for
18 global innovation leadership and models for inclusive
19 growth, equal opportunity, and rising living stand-
20 ards for disadvantaged populations;

21 (3) inspire, within metropolitan statistical areas
22 in the United States across the country, new and
23 constructive collaboration among local, State, and
24 Federal government entities, academia, and private

1 industry by issuing a call for innovation center pro-
2 posals with clear, ambitious objectives;

3 (4) carry out a transparent, competitive, fair,
4 and rigorous process for selecting innovation centers;

5 (5) ensure the transparent, efficient and effec-
6 tive use of taxpayer funds; and

7 (6) empirically evaluate the effectiveness of in-
8 novation centers through release of publicly available
9 reports and data.

10 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

11 (1) COMPOSITION.—

12 (A) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Committee
13 shall be composed of the following voting mem-
14 bers:

15 (i) The Secretary of Commerce, who
16 shall serve as chairperson of the Com-
17 mittee.

18 (ii) The Administrator of the Small
19 Business Administration.

20 (iii) The Deputy Secretary for Hous-
21 ing and Urban Development.

22 (iv) The Director of the Community
23 Development Financial Institution Fund.

24 (v) The Director of the National
25 Science Foundation.

1 (vi) The Director of the National In-
2 stitute of Standards and Technology.

3 (vii) The Director of the National
4 Economic Council.

5 (viii) The Assistant Secretary of Com-
6 merce for Economic Development.

7 (ix) The Assistant Secretary for Em-
8 ployment and Training.

9 (x) The Director of the Office of
10 Science and Technology Policy.

11 (xi) The Under Secretary of Defense
12 for Research and Engineering.

13 (xii) The Under Secretary for Science
14 of the Department of Energy.

15 (xiii) The Director of the National In-
16 stitutes of Health.

17 (xiv) The Under Secretary for Science
18 and Technology of the Department of
19 Homeland Security.

20 (xv) The Administrator of the Na-
21 tional Aeronautics and Space Administra-
22 tion.

23 (2) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall
25 have 8 nonvoting members, of which, from

1 among leaders of labor organizations or re-
2 search institutions, or leaders from private in-
3 dustry or professional societies—

4 (i) 2 shall be appointed by the major-
5 ity leader of the Senate;

6 (ii) 2 shall be appointed by the minor-
7 ity leader of the Senate;

8 (iii) 2 shall be appointed by the
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives;
10 and

11 (iv) 2 shall be appointed by the minor-
12 ity leader of the House of Representatives.

13 (B) TERM.—The nonvoting members ap-
14 pointed under subparagraph (A)—

15 (i) shall serve for a term of 5 years;
16 and

17 (ii) may be reappointed to subsequent
18 terms.

19 (C) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the non-
20 voting membership of the Committee shall be
21 filled in the same manner as the original ap-
22 pointment, but the individual appointed to fill
23 the vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired
24 portion of the term for which the individual's
25 predecessor was appointed.

1 (D) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENTS.—The
2 nonvoting members of the Committee shall be
3 appointed under this paragraph not later than
4 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

5 (3) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days
6 after the date on which all members of the Com-
7 mittee are appointed, the Committee shall hold its
8 first meeting.

9 (c) COMPENSATION.—A nonvoting member of the
10 Committee appointed under subsection (b)(2) shall be al-
11 lowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-
12 sistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies
13 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States
14 Code, while away from their homes or regular places of
15 business in the performance of services for the Committee.

16 (d) STAFF.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may appoint
18 a staff director and other personnel as necessary to
19 carry out the duties of the Committee.

20 (2) MEMBER AGENCIES.—The Department of
21 Commerce, the Department of Labor, the Depart-
22 ment of the Treasury, the Department of Housing
23 and Urban Development, the Department of De-
24 fense, the Department of Energy, the Department of
25 Health and Human Services, the Small Business

1 Administration, and the Department of Transpor-
2 tation shall provide necessary staffing support to the
3 Committee, as determined by the Committee.

4 (e) SELECTION OF INNOVATION CENTERS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall select
6 9 eligible areas to serve as innovation centers and
7 receive the Federal innovation supports described in
8 section 4.

9 (2) APPLICATION.—

10 (A) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later
11 than 3 months after the date of enactment of
12 this Act, the Committee shall issue a request
13 for applications from eligible entities.

14 (B) SUBMISSION.—Each eligible area de-
15 siring to be selected as an innovation center
16 shall submit to the Committee an application
17 through a proposal committee created by the el-
18 igible area, which shall include representation
19 from each State located in the eligible area and
20 each municipal government representing not
21 less than 200,000 individuals located in the eli-
22 gible area.

23 (3) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting innova-
24 tion centers under this section, the Committee shall
25 evaluate each applicant based on—

1 (A) the performance of the applicant in—

2 (i) STEM spending per capita;

3 (ii) the number of patents per

4 100,000 residents;

5 (iii) the share of the population with

6 a Bachelor of Arts degree or a higher de-

7 gree; and

8 (iv) the number of STEM university

9 degrees per capita;

10 (B) a plan to use data-driven strategies to

11 promote innovation-based, advanced sector

12 takeoff, focused on local interplay of university,

13 Federal research institution, and industry core

14 competencies;

15 (C) a plan to increase innovation readi-

16 ness, including expanding research and tech-

17 nology development facilities and developing the

18 local STEM workforce, including through part-

19 nerships with entities with demonstrated suc-

20 cess of administering apprenticeship and other

21 workforce development models;

22 (D) a plan to build or improve areas that

23 attract and support workers and firms;

24 (E) a plan to foster racial equity and inclu-

25 sive growth, including by leveraging minority

1 serving institutions, preventing gentrification,
2 combatting segregation, promoting the inclusion
3 of underrepresented residents, and ensuring af-
4 fordable housing options;

5 (F) a plan to invest the financial resources
6 of the applicant;

7 (G) a plan to partner with local workforce
8 development boards to scale up training to meet
9 new workforce demands;

10 (H) a plan to incorporate and bring
11 growth and opportunity to a broad geographic
12 area beyond the limits of the metropolitan sta-
13 tistical area, including rural areas, through im-
14 proved transportation, high speed internet ac-
15 cess, other investments, and partnerships; and

16 (I) the relative potential for the selection
17 of the innovation center to reverse a decline, or
18 accelerate growth, in innovation sector jobs.

19 (4) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In selecting in-
20 novation centers under this section, the Committee
21 shall ensure a broad geographic representation of
22 the United States.

23 (5) SITE VISITS.—The Committee may conduct
24 site visits to eligible areas that are finalists for selec-
25 tion as an innovation center.

1 (6) **TIMELINE FOR SELECTION.**—The Com-
2 mittee shall, by secret ballot, vote to select the 9 in-
3 novation centers not later than 12 months after the
4 date of enactment of this Act.

5 (7) **EVALUATION AND RENEWAL.**—

6 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the
8 Committee shall establish evaluation and re-
9 newal criteria to measure—

10 (i) the progress of an innovation cen-
11 ter toward becoming a center for tech-
12 nology innovation;

13 (ii) the effectiveness of an innovation
14 center in translating innovation sector
15 growth into broadly shared economic op-
16 portunity within the innovation center; and

17 (iii) the ethical and efficient use of
18 Federal funds.

19 (B) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Beginning in
20 the third full year following the date of enact-
21 ment of this Act, and not less frequently than
22 once every 3 years thereafter, the Committee
23 shall submit to Congress and each agency rep-
24 resented on the Committee, and make publicly
25 available, a report on the progress of each inno-

1 vation center in meeting the objectives de-
2 scribed in paragraph (3).

3 (C) EVALUATION.—

4 (i) IN GENERAL.—During the third
5 year in which an innovation center is in ex-
6 istence, the Committee shall conduct an
7 evaluation based on established bench-
8 marks for achieving the objectives de-
9 scribed in paragraph (3) to determine
10 whether the designation as an innovation
11 center shall be renewed for 3 additional
12 years.

13 (ii) FAILURE TO MEET BENCH-
14 MARKS.—An innovation center that fails to
15 meet a majority of the benchmarks estab-
16 lished under clause (i) shall not be renewed
17 as an innovation center.

18 (D) RENEWAL LIMIT.—An innovation cen-
19 ter shall be designated as such for a period of
20 3 years, and the Committee may renew the des-
21 ignation for not more than 2 additional 3-year
22 terms.

23 (f) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
24 date on which all innovation centers have exhausted their
25 designations and renewals as an innovation center, the

1 Committee shall submit to Congress and each agency rep-
2 resented on the Committee, and make publicly available,
3 a final cumulative report on the efficacy of the program.

4 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated to the Committee for travel
6 and administrative expenses related to carrying out the
7 duties of the Committee—

8 (1) \$5,000,000 for each of the first 2 fiscal
9 years beginning after the date of enactment of this
10 Act; and

11 (2) \$1,000,000 for each of the 8 fiscal years
12 following the 2 fiscal years described in paragraph
13 (1).

14 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL INNOVATION SUPPORTS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—An innovation center shall be eli-
16 gible for the Federal innovation supports described in this
17 section.

18 (b) DIRECT FEDERAL INVESTMENT.—

19 (1) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RE-
20 SEARCH FUNDING.—

21 (A) FUNDING GOAL.—The Director of the
22 National Science Foundation shall pursue a
23 goal of awarding through a rigorous selection
24 process, for each innovation center that gets its
25 designation renewed continually for 3 terms, a

1 total of \$1,250,000,000 in grant funds to enti-
2 ties located in that innovation center by the end
3 of the 9th year of the designation of that inno-
4 vation center, by proportionally increasing the
5 total amount of the grants awarded over the 9-
6 year period.

7 (B) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addition
8 to awarding grants in pursuit of the goal de-
9 scribed in subparagraph (A), the Director shall
10 award grants—

11 (i) with a focus on universities or
12 other research institutions that commit to
13 expanding research and workforce capabili-
14 ties aligned with industries and tech-
15 nologies and with a preference for univer-
16 sities or institutions that are—

17 (I) concentrated in an innovation
18 center; or

19 (II) key to national challenges; or
20 (ii) that include industry-university
21 research partnership programs.

22 (C) TRACKING.—In each year, the Direc-
23 tor of the National Science Foundation shall
24 track the aggregate amount of grants awarded

1 by the Director to entities in that year,
2 disaggregated by innovation center.

3 (D) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL AP-
4 PROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be ap-
5 propriated to carry out this paragraph, in addi-
6 tion to amounts that would otherwise be appro-
7 priated in a year for the National Science
8 Foundation, amounts as follows:

9 (i) For fiscal year 2021, \$0.

10 (ii) For fiscal year 2022,
11 \$1,110,000,000.

12 (iii) For fiscal year 2023,
13 \$2,220,000,000.

14 (iv) For fiscal year 2024,
15 \$3,330,000,000.

16 (v) For fiscal year 2025,
17 \$4,440,000,000.

18 (vi) For fiscal year 2026,
19 \$5,550,000,000.

20 (vii) For fiscal year 2027,
21 \$6,660,000,000.

22 (viii) For fiscal year 2028,
23 \$7,770,000,000.

24 (ix) For fiscal year 2029,
25 \$8,880,000,000.

1 pried to carry out this paragraph amounts as
2 follows:

3 (i) In fiscal year 2022, \$57,000,000.

4 (ii) In fiscal year 2023, \$114,000,000.

5 (iii) In fiscal year 2024,
6 \$171,000,000.

7 (iv) In fiscal year 2025,
8 \$228,000,000.

9 (v) In fiscal year 2026, \$285,000,000.

10 (vi) In fiscal year 2027,
11 \$342,000,000.

12 (vii) In fiscal year 2028,
13 \$399,000,000.

14 (viii) In fiscal year 2029,
15 \$456,000,000.

16 (ix) In fiscal year 2030,
17 \$513,000,000.

18 (3) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION INDUS-
19 TRY-UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTERS
20 PROGRAM.—The Director of the National Science
21 Foundation shall consider the location of a univer-
22 sity within an innovation center to be a strength for
23 purposes of selection criteria under the Industry-
24 University Cooperative Research Centers program.

1 (4) SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RE-
2 SEARCH.—Section 9(j) of the Small Business Act
3 (15 U.S.C. 638(j)) is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 “(5) MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO INNOVA-
6 TION CENTERS.—

7 “(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the
8 term ‘innovation center’ has the meaning given
9 the term in section 2 of the Innovation Centers
10 Acceleration Act.

11 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 6
12 months after the date of enactment of the Inno-
13 vation Centers Acceleration Act, the Adminis-
14 trator shall modify the policy directives issued
15 pursuant to this subsection—

16 “(i) to provide that, during the 10-
17 year period beginning on the date of enact-
18 ment of the Innovation Centers Accelera-
19 tion Act, the location of a small business
20 concern within an innovation center shall
21 be considered a strength under the selec-
22 tion criteria for Phase I and Phase II pro-
23 posals under the SBIR program of a Fed-
24 eral agency; and

1 “(ii) to require the Administrator to
2 track and publish on an annual basis the
3 total value of SBIR awards made to small
4 business concerns located in innovation
5 centers.”.

6 (5) MANUFACTURING USA PROGRAM.—

7 (A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

8 (i) MANUFACTURING USA PROGRAM.—

9 The term “Manufacturing USA Program”
10 means the program established under sec-
11 tion 34(b) of the National Institute of
12 Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C.
13 278s(b)).

14 (ii) MANUFACTURING USA INSTI-

15 TUTE.—The term “Manufacturing USA
16 institute” means an institute described in
17 section 34(d) of the National Institute of
18 Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C.
19 278s(d)).

20 (B) EXPANSION.—Under section 34(e) of

21 the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
22 nology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s(e)), the Secretary
23 shall award financial assistance to assist in the
24 establishment and support of—

1 (i) 9 new Manufacturing USA insti-
2 tutes; or

3 (ii) a combination of satellites to ex-
4 isting Manufacturing USA institutes or
5 new Manufacturing USA institutes.

6 (C) SELECTION.—

7 (i) IN GENERAL.—Manufacturing
8 USA institutes and satellites shall be iden-
9 tified and funded under subparagraph (B)
10 from among proposals submitted to the
11 Secretary for purposes of this paragraph.

12 (ii) PROPOSAL ELEMENTS.—Any pro-
13 posal submitted to the Secretary in accord-
14 ance with clause (i) shall include—

15 (I) a plan for the institute or sat-
16 ellite concerned to support or other-
17 wise align with existing Manufac-
18 turing USA institutes, including
19 through—

20 (aa) membership in, or part-
21 nership or formal affiliation with,
22 an existing Manufacturing USA
23 institute; or

24 (bb) a plan to reach a seg-
25 ment, population, or geographic

1 area not already covered by or
2 engaged with existing Manufac-
3 turing USA institutes; and

4 (II) a plan for cost-sharing for
5 the activities of the institute or sat-
6 ellite concerned, including the sources
7 of funds and amounts to be contrib-
8 uted.

9 (iii) SELECTION OF SATELLITES.—
10 Any selection of a satellite to an existing
11 Manufacturing USA institute under this
12 subparagraph shall be made by the Sec-
13 retary in consultation with exiting Manu-
14 facturing USA institutes.

15 (iv) PRIORITY RELATING TO INNOVA-
16 TION CENTERS.—In identifying and fund-
17 ing a new Manufacturing USA institute or
18 a combination of satellites to existing or
19 new Manufacturing USA institutes under
20 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall give
21 priority to proposals for identification and
22 funding of Manufacturing USA institutes
23 in an innovation center, in whole or in sub-
24 stantial part.

1 (v) PREVENTION OF OVERLAP AND
2 REDUNDANCY.—In identifying and funding
3 Manufacturing USA institutes or satellites
4 to Manufacturing USA institutes under
5 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall, to
6 the extent practicable, avoid overlap or re-
7 dundancy in mission, technology focus, or
8 funding with existing Manufacturing USA
9 institutes.

10 (D) AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSIST-
11 ANCE.—

12 (i) NEW MANUFACTURING USA INSTI-
13 TUTES.—For each Manufacturing USA in-
14 stitute identified and funded under sub-
15 paragraph (B), the Secretary may expend
16 up to \$70,000,000 during the period of fis-
17 cal years 2021 through 2032.

18 (ii) MANUFACTURING USA INSTITUTE
19 SATELLITES.—For each Manufacturing
20 USA institute satellite or expansion sup-
21 ported under subparagraph (B), the Sec-
22 retary may expend up to \$25,000,000 dur-
23 ing the period of fiscal years 2021 through
24 2032.

1 (E) ALLOCATION.—Not less than 33 per-
2 cent of the financial assistance provided under
3 subparagraph (B) shall be for identifying and
4 funding Manufacturing USA institutes in inno-
5 vation centers.

6 (6) MANUFACTURING UNIVERSITIES.—The Sec-
7 retary of Commerce and the Secretary of Defense
8 shall consider the location of a university within an
9 innovation center to be a strength for purposes of
10 selection criteria under the Manufacturing Univer-
11 sities Program.

12 (7) MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGEN-
13 CY.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The National Director
15 of the Minority Business Development Agency
16 may, acting through the Inner City Innovation
17 Hub program, award not more than 2 grants to
18 eligible entities located within each innovation
19 center.

20 (B) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant award-
21 ed under subparagraph (A) may not exceed
22 \$1,500,000.

23 (C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
24 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
25 priated to the National Director of the Minority

1 Business Development Agency \$27,000,000 for
2 each of fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

3 (8) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL INNOVATIONS
4 STRATEGIES GRANTS.—

5 (A) DEFINITION OF INNOVATION CEN-
6 TER.—Section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Tech-
7 nology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C.
8 3703) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(12) ‘Innovation center’ has the meaning given
11 the term in section 2 of the Innovation Centers Ac-
12 celeration Act.”.

13 (B) GRANTS.—Section 27 of the Steven-
14 son-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980
15 (15 U.S.C. 3722) is amended—

16 (i) in subsection (c)—

17 (I) in paragraph (1), by striking
18 “As part of the program” and insert-
19 ing the following:

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the pro-
21 gram”; and

22 (II) by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(B) INNOVATION CENTER GRANTS.—As a
25 part of the program established pursuant to

1 subsection (b), the Assistant Secretary of Com-
2 merce for Economic Development may award
3 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible recipi-
4 ents described in subsection (a)(1)(D) located
5 within innovation centers.”; and

6 (ii) in subsection (h)—

7 (I) by striking “From amounts
8 appropriated” and inserting the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appro-
11 priated”; and

12 (II) by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(2) INNOVATION CENTER GRANTS.—There are
15 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to
16 award grants under subsection (c)(1)(B) \$5,000,000
17 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2030.”.

18 (9) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN
19 CONSULTATION WITH INNOVATION CENTERS.—

20 (A) YOUTH WORKFORCE ACTIVITIES.—Sec-
21 tion 129 of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
22 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164) is amended by
23 adding at the end the following:

24 “(d) YOUTH WORKFORCE ACTIVITIES IN CONSULTA-
25 TION WITH INNOVATION CENTERS.—

1 “(1) FUNDING.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made
3 available under section 136(d), the Secretary
4 shall provide a grant to each local area that—

5 “(i) is within the area covered by an
6 innovation center selected under subsection
7 (e) of section 3 of the Innovation Centers
8 Acceleration Act; and

9 “(ii) the Innovation Center Selection
10 Committee established under that section 3
11 certifies is working in partnership with
12 that innovation center.

13 “(B) AMOUNT.—The amount of the grant
14 for a fiscal year shall be equal to the allocation
15 that the local area receives under section 128(b)
16 for that fiscal year.

17 “(C) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may
18 not reduce the amount that any local area re-
19 ceives through an allocation under section
20 128(b) because local areas described in sub-
21 paragraph (A) receive grants under this sub-
22 section.

23 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The local area shall use
24 the grant funds in accordance with subsection (c),
25 after consultation with the innovation center.”.

1 (B) ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER EM-
2 PLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Section
3 134 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
4 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174) is amended by
5 adding at the end the following:

6 “(e) ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOY-
7 MENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN CONSULTATION
8 WITH INNOVATION CENTERS.—

9 “(1) FUNDING.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made
11 available under section 136(d), the Secretary
12 shall provide a grant to each local area that—

13 “(i) is within the area covered by an
14 innovation center selected under subsection
15 (e) of section 3 of the Innovation Centers
16 Acceleration Act; and

17 “(ii) the Innovation Center Selection
18 Committee established under that section 3
19 certifies is working in partnership with
20 that innovation center.

21 “(B) AMOUNT.—The amount of the grant
22 for a fiscal year shall be equal to the sum of the
23 allocations that the local area receives under
24 paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 133(b) for
25 that fiscal year.

1 “(C) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may
2 not reduce the amount that any local area re-
3 ceives through an allocation under paragraph
4 (1) or (2) of section 133(b)(3) because local
5 areas described in subparagraph (A) receive
6 grants under this subsection.

7 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The local area shall use
8 the grant funds in accordance with subsections (b),
9 (c), and (d), after consultation with the innovation
10 center.”.

11 (C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
12 TIONS.—Section 136 of the Workforce Innova-
13 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3181) is
14 amended—

15 (i) in subsections (a), (b), and (c), by
16 inserting before the first comma the fol-
17 lowing: “(except for activities funded from
18 amounts appropriated under subsection
19 (d))”; and

20 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(d) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN CON-
23 SULTATION WITH INNOVATION CENTERS.—There are au-
24 thorized to be appropriated to carry out sections 129(d)

1 and 134(e) such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal
2 year that an innovation center designation is in effect.”.

3 (10) ADDITIONAL STEM APPRENTICESHIP
4 GRANTS.—Section 28 of the Stevenson-Wydler Tech-
5 nology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3723) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(e) INNOVATION CENTER GRANTS.—

8 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In
9 this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an
10 eligible recipient that is—

11 “(A) described in subsection (b)(4); and

12 “(B) located within an innovation center.

13 “(2) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Assistant
14 Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development
15 shall provide to not less than 1 eligible entity located
16 in each innovation center a grant to develop infra-
17 structure to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.

18 “(3) AMOUNT; RENEWAL.—

19 “(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant
20 under paragraph (2) shall be not more than
21 \$5,000,000 for each year over a 3-year period.

22 “(B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may pro-
23 vide an eligible entity that receives a grant
24 under paragraph (2) not more than 2 additional
25 grants under that paragraph.

1 “(4) PREFERENCE.—The Assistant Secretary
2 of Commerce for Economic Development shall give
3 preference for a grant under this subsection to an el-
4 igible entity with demonstrated success of admin-
5 istering apprenticeship and other workforce develop-
6 ment models and that demonstrates a commitment
7 to serving individuals—

8 “(A) from underrepresented populations;
9 or

10 “(B) who face barriers to employment, in-
11 cluding—

12 “(i) long-term unemployment;

13 “(ii) past incarceration; or

14 “(iii) veteran or disability status.

15 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
17 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2030.”.

18 (11) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RE-
19 SEARCH FUNDING.—

20 (A) FUNDING GOAL.—The Director of the
21 National Institutes of Health shall pursue a
22 goal of awarding through a rigorous selection
23 process and subject to peer review, for each in-
24 novation center that gets its designation re-
25 newed continually for 3 terms, a total of

1 \$1,250,000,000 in meritorious research awards
2 in priority areas of biomedical science to enti-
3 ties located in that innovation center by the end
4 of the 9th year of the designation of that inno-
5 vation center, by proportionally increasing the
6 total amount of the grants, contracts, or other
7 transactions awarded in each innovation center
8 each year over the 9-year period.

9 (B) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addition
10 to awarding grants, contracts, or other trans-
11 actions in pursuit of the goal described in sub-
12 paragraph (A), the Director of the National In-
13 stitutes of Health shall award grants—

14 (i) with a focus on universities or
15 other research institutions that commit to
16 expanding research capabilities aligned
17 with industries and technologies and with a
18 preference for universities or institutions
19 that are—

20 (I) concentrated in an innovation
21 center; or

22 (II) key to national challenges; or

23 (ii) that include industry-university
24 research partnership programs.

1 (C) TRACKING.—In each year, the Direc-
2 tor of the National Institutes of Health shall
3 track the aggregate amount of grants, con-
4 tracts, or other transactions awarded by the Di-
5 rector to entities in that year, disaggregated by
6 innovation center.

7 (D) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL AP-
8 PROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be ap-
9 propriated to carry out this paragraph, in addi-
10 tion to amounts that would otherwise be appro-
11 priated in a year for the National Institutes of
12 Health, amounts as follows:

- 13 (i) For fiscal year 2021, \$0.
- 14 (ii) For fiscal year 2022,
15 \$140,000,000.
- 16 (iii) For fiscal year 2023,
17 \$280,000,000.
- 18 (iv) For fiscal year 2024,
19 \$420,000,000.
- 20 (v) For fiscal year 2025,
21 \$560,000,000.
- 22 (vi) For fiscal year 2026,
23 \$700,000,000.
- 24 (vii) For fiscal year 2027,
25 \$840,000,000.

1 (viii) For fiscal year 2028,
2 \$980,000,000.

3 (ix) For fiscal year 2029,
4 \$1,120,000,000.

5 (x) For fiscal year 2030,
6 \$1,260,000,000.

7 (c) TAX INCENTIVES.—

8 (1) NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT ALLOCA-
9 TIONS.—Subsection (f) of section 45D of the Inter-
10 nal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at
11 the end the following new paragraph:

12 “(4) SPECIAL ALLOCATION FOR INNOVATION
13 CENTERS.—In the case of any calendar year begin-
14 ning after 2021—

15 “(A) the limitation under paragraph (1)
16 (including in calendar years for which the limi-
17 tation under paragraph (1) is zero) shall be in-
18 creased by \$50,000,000 for each metropolitan
19 statistical area which is designated as an inno-
20 vation center under section 3(e) of the Innova-
21 tion Centers Acceleration Act for such calendar
22 year, and

23 “(B) the additional limitation under sub-
24 paragraph (A) shall be divided equally among
25 such innovation centers and allocated (as pro-

1 vided in paragraph (2)) among qualified com-
2 munity development entities in such innovation
3 centers.”.

4 (2) RESEARCH CREDIT.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 41 of such
6 Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(i) SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO INNOVATION
9 CENTERS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of—

11 “(A) any qualified research expenses paid
12 or incurred for qualified services or qualified re-
13 search,

14 “(B) any basic research payments for basic
15 research, and

16 “(C) amounts paid or incurred by the tax-
17 payer in carrying on any trade or business of
18 the taxpayer (including as contributions) to an
19 energy research consortium for energy research,
20 during the taxable year at a location in a metropoli-
21 tan statistical area which is an innovation center for
22 such taxable year, this section shall be applied as
23 provided in paragraphs (2) and (3).

1 “(2) CREDIT RATE.—Subsection (a) shall be
2 applied by substituting ‘30 percent’ for ‘20 percent’
3 each place it appears.

4 “(3) ALTERNATIVE SIMPLIFIED CREDIT.—Sub-
5 section (c)(4) shall be applied—

6 “(A) by substituting ‘21 percent’ for ‘14
7 percent’ in subparagraph (A), and

8 “(B) by substituting ‘9 percent’ for ‘6 per-
9 cent’ in subparagraph (B)(ii).

10 “(4) CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED SMALL BUSI-
11 NESSES.—In the case of a trade or business located
12 primarily within a metropolitan statistical area
13 which is an innovation center for the taxable year,
14 subsection (h) shall be applied—

15 “(A) by substituting ‘\$15,000,000’ for
16 ‘\$5,000,000’ in paragraph (3)(A)(i)(I),

17 “(B) by substituting ‘8-taxable-year’ for
18 ‘5-taxable-year’ in paragraph (3)(A)(i)(II), and

19 “(C) by substituting ‘\$500,000’ for
20 ‘\$250,000’ both places it appears in paragraphs
21 (4)(B)(i) and (5)(B)(ii).

22 “(5) INNOVATION CENTER.—For purposes of
23 this subsection, for any taxable year, the term ‘inno-
24 vation center’ means a metropolitan statistical area
25 with a designation as an innovation center under

1 section 3(e) of the Innovation Centers Acceleration
2 Act in effect for calendar years beginning in such
3 year.

4 “(6) TERMINATION.—This subsection shall not
5 apply to expenses paid or incurred after December
6 31, 2030.”.

7 (B) TRAINING INCLUDED AS RESEARCH
8 EXPENSES.—

9 (i) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of
10 section 41(b) of such Code is amended—

11 (I) by striking “and” at the end
12 of subparagraph (A),

13 (II) by striking the period at the
14 end of subparagraph (B) and insert-
15 ing “, and”, and

16 (III) by adding at the end the
17 following new subparagraph:

18 “(C) employee training expenses.”.

19 (ii) EMPLOYEE TRAINING EX-
20 PENSES.—Subsection (b) of section 41 of
21 such Code is amended—

22 (I) by redesignating paragraph
23 (4) as paragraph (5), and

24 (II) by inserting after paragraph
25 (3) the following new paragraph:

1 “(4) EMPLOYEE TRAINING EXPENSES.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘employee
3 training expenses’ means any wages paid or in-
4 curred to an employee in connection with train-
5 ing for the employee to perform qualified serv-
6 ices described in clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph
7 (2)(B). Such term does not include wages paid
8 or incurred in connection with general employer
9 training which does not specifically pertain to
10 such qualified services.

11 “(B) WAGES, ETC.—For purposes of this
12 paragraph—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘wages’
14 shall not include any amount taken into
15 account under paragraph (2)(A)(i).

16 “(ii) RULES.—The rules of paragraph
17 (2)(D) shall apply.

18 “(C) TERMINATION.—The term ‘employee
19 training expenses’ does not include any wages
20 paid or incurred after December 31, 2030.”.

21 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments
22 made by this paragraph shall apply to taxable
23 years beginning after December 31, 2021.

24 (d) REGULATORY MODERNIZATION.—

1 (1) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term
2 “startup” means a small business concern (as de-
3 fined in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15
4 U.S.C. 632(a))) that—

5 (A) has been in existence for less than 3
6 years; and

7 (B) has annual average gross receipts of
8 less than \$3,000,000.

9 (2) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any
10 other provision of law, in the case of a startup that
11 is operating within an innovation center, any re-
12 quirement related to a Federal grant that prohibits
13 the use of university laboratory or other research as-
14 sets purchased or supposed by the grant from being
15 used for commercial purposes for an initial time pe-
16 riod shall be waived.

17 (e) BUSINESS ACCESS TO CAPITAL.—

18 (1) INNOVATION CENTER DEBENTURES.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the
20 Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15
21 U.S.C. 683) is amended by adding at the end
22 the following:

23 “(1) INNOVATION CENTER DEBENTURES.—In addi-
24 tion to any other authority under this Act, on and after
25 the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the

1 date of enactment of this subsection, a small business in-
2 vestment company may issue innovation center debent-
3 tures.”.

4 (B) DEFINITIONS.—Section 103 of the
5 Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15
6 U.S.C. 662) is amended—

7 (i) in paragraph (19), by striking
8 “and” at the end;

9 (ii) in paragraph (20), by striking the
10 period at the end and inserting a semi-
11 colon; and

12 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(21) the term ‘innovation center debenture’
15 means a deferred interest debenture that—

16 “(A) is issued at a discount;

17 “(B) has a 5-year maturity or a 10-year
18 maturity;

19 “(C) requires no interest payment or an-
20 nual charge for the first 5 years;

21 “(D) is restricted to companies located
22 within an innovation center, as defined in sec-
23 tion 2 of the Innovation Centers Acceleration
24 Act; and

1 “(E) is issued at no cost (as defined in
2 section 502 of the Credit Reform Act of 1990
3 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) with respect to purchasing
4 and guaranteeing the debenture; and

5 “(22) the term ‘innovation center startup’
6 means any company that—

7 “(A) is primarily located within an innova-
8 tion center (as defined in section 2 of the Inno-
9 vation Centers Acceleration Act);

10 “(B) is innovation- or technology-oriented;
11 and

12 “(C) has been in existence for less than 5
13 years.”.

14 (C) EXEMPTION FROM CAPITAL REQUIRE-
15 MENTS.—Section 301(c) of the Small Business
16 Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681(c)) is
17 amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “(5) EXCEPTION FOR APPLICATIONS LOCATED
19 IN INNOVATION CENTERS.—An applicant that is lo-
20 cated in an innovation center (as defined in section
21 2 of the Innovation Centers Acceleration Act) and
22 that does not satisfy the requirements of section
23 302(a) shall be limited to 1 tier of leverage available
24 under section 302(b) until the applicant meets the
25 requirements of section 302(a).”.

1 (2) 7(A) LOAN FINANCING FOR INNOVATION
2 CENTER STARTUPS.—

3 (A) LOAN GUARANTEE PERCENTAGE.—

4 Section 7(a)(2) of the Small Business Act (15
5 U.S.C. 636(a)(2)) is amended—

6 (i) in subparagraph (A), in the matter
7 preceding clause (i), by striking “and (F)”
8 and inserting “(F), and (G)”; and

9 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(G) PARTICIPATION FOR INNOVATION
12 CENTER STARTUPS.—

13 “(i) DEFINITION.—In this subpara-
14 graph, the term ‘innovation center startup’
15 means any small business concern that—

16 “(I) is primarily located within
17 an innovation center (as defined in
18 section 2 of the Innovation Centers
19 Acceleration Act);

20 “(II) is innovation- or tech-
21 nology-oriented; and

22 “(III) has been in existence for
23 less than 5 years.

24 “(ii) PARTICIPATION.—In an agree-
25 ment to participate in a loan on a deferred

1 basis under this subsection for an innova-
2 tion center startup, the participation by
3 the Administration shall be 90 percent.”.

4 (B) GUARANTEE FEE REDUCTION.—Sec-
5 tion 7(a)(18) of the Small Business Act (15
6 U.S.C. 636(a)(18)) is amended—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
8 “With respect” and inserting “Except as
9 provided in subparagraph (C), with re-
10 spect”; and

11 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(C) INNOVATION CENTER STARTUPS.—
14 With respect to a loan guaranteed under this
15 subsection for a small business concern de-
16 scribed in paragraph (2)(G)(i)—

17 “(i) the Administration may not col-
18 lect a guarantee fee under this paragraph
19 for a loan of not more than \$350,000; and

20 “(ii) for a loan of more than
21 \$350,000, the Administration shall collect
22 a guarantee fee under this paragraph equal
23 to 50 percent of the guarantee fee that the
24 Administration would otherwise collect for
25 the loan.”.

1 (3) CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LOANS
2 FOR INNOVATION CENTER STARTUPS.—

3 (A) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT.—Section
4 502(2)(A) of the Small Business Investment
5 Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696(2)(A)) is amend-
6 ed—

7 (i) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at
8 the end;

9 (ii) in clause (v), by striking the pe-
10 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(vi) \$10,000,000 for each project of
14 an innovation center startup.”.

15 (B) CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT.—Sec-
16 tion 502(3)(C) of the Small Business Invest-
17 ment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696(3)(C)) is
18 amended—

19 (i) in clause (iii), by striking “or” at
20 the end;

21 (ii) by redesignating clause (iv) as
22 clause (v); and

23 (iii) by inserting after clause (iii) the
24 following:

25 “(iv) for an innovation startup—

1 “(I) at least 5 percent of the
2 total cost of the project financed, if
3 the innovation startup has been in op-
4 eration for a period of 2 years or less;
5 and

6 “(II) at least 5 percent of the
7 total cost of the project financed if the
8 project involves the construction of a
9 limited or single purpose building or
10 structure.”.

11 (4) SBA RESOURCES.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Small Business
13 Administration shall provide innovation center
14 startups (as defined in section 7(a)(2)(G) of the
15 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(2)(G)))
16 access to financing resources of the Administra-
17 tion and assist those startups in navigating the
18 application process.

19 (B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
20 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
21 to the Small Business Administration
22 \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2021 and every fiscal
23 year thereafter to carry out subparagraph (A).

24 (f) NEIGHBORHOOD, PROPERTY, AND INFRASTRUC-
25 TURE MODERNIZATION.—

1 (1) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
2 FUNDING.—

3 (A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

4 (i) the term “eligible entity” means a
5 unit of general local government or Indian
6 tribe that receives assistance under title I
7 of the Housing and Community Develop-
8 ment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et
9 seq.);

10 (ii) the terms “Indian tribe” and
11 “unit of general local government” have
12 the meanings given those terms in section
13 102 of the Housing and Community Devel-
14 opment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302);

15 (iii) the term “qualified affordable
16 housing” means a housing development
17 that consists of 5 or more dwelling units of
18 which 20 percent or more are made avail-
19 able—

20 (I) for rental only by a low-in-
21 come family (as defined in section
22 3(b) of the United States Housing Act
23 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)));

24 (II) at a monthly rent amount
25 that does not exceed 30 percent of the

1 monthly adjusted income (as defined
2 in such section 3(b)) of the tenant
3 low-income family; and

4 (III) maintains affordability for
5 residents who are low-income families
6 for a period of not less than 30 years;
7 and

8 (iv) the term “Secretary” means the
9 Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
10 ment.

11 (B) FUNDING.—

12 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
13 provide a grant to each eligible entity
14 that—

15 (I) is within the area covered by
16 an innovation center; and

17 (II) the Committee certifies is
18 working in partnership with that inno-
19 vation center.

20 (ii) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant
21 provided to an eligible entity under clause
22 (i) for a fiscal year shall be equal to the
23 allocation that the eligible entity receives
24 under title I of the Housing and Commu-

1 nity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.
2 5301 et seq.) for that fiscal year.

3 (iii) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary
4 may not reduce the amount that any eligi-
5 ble entity receives under title I of the
6 Housing and Community Development Act
7 of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) because
8 eligible entities receive grants under this
9 subparagraph.

10 (C) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity
11 shall use grant funds provided under subpara-
12 graph (B) for the development and preservation
13 of qualified affordable housing, including the
14 construction of such housing, within the area
15 covered by an innovation center, in accordance
16 with title I of the Housing and Community De-
17 velopment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)
18 and after consultation with the innovation cen-
19 ter.

20 (D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
21 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
22 priated such sums as may be necessary to carry
23 out this paragraph for each fiscal year in which
24 an innovation center designation is in effect.

25 (2) INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING.—

1 (A) BUILD GRANTS.—

2 (i) DEFINITION OF BUILD PRO-
3 GRAM.—In this subparagraph, the term
4 “BUILD program” means the program for
5 national infrastructure investments (com-
6 monly known as the “Better Utilizing In-
7 vestments to Leverage Development
8 (BUILD) discretionary grant program”) of
9 the Department of Transportation.

10 (ii) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
11 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appro-
12 priated to the Secretary of Transportation
13 \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
14 through 2032 to carry out projects under
15 the BUILD program in innovation centers.

16 (iii) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—
17 Amounts authorized to be appropriated
18 under clause (ii) shall supplement and not
19 supplant any other amounts authorized to
20 be appropriated for the BUILD program.

21 (B) INFRA GRANTS.—

22 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
23 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appro-
24 priated to the Secretary of Transportation
25 \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022

1 through 2032 to carry out projects under
2 the nationally significant freight and high-
3 way projects program under section 117 of
4 title 23, United States Code, in innovation
5 centers.

6 (ii) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—
7 Amounts authorized to be appropriated
8 under clause (i) shall supplement and not
9 supplant any other amounts authorized to
10 be appropriated for the nationally signifi-
11 cant freight and highway projects program
12 under section 117 of title 23, United
13 States Code.

14 (C) TIFIA PROGRAM.—

15 (i) LINES OF CREDIT.—Section
16 604(b)(2) of title 23, United States Code,
17 is amended—

18 (I) by striking “The total” and
19 inserting the following:

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
21 subparagraph (B), the total”; and

22 (II) by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(B) PROJECTS IN INNOVATION CEN-
25 TERS.—In the case of a project in an innova-

1 tion center (as defined in section 2 of the Inno-
2 vation Centers Acceleration Act), the total
3 amount of a line of credit under this section
4 shall not exceed 49 percent of the reasonably
5 anticipated eligible project costs.”.

6 (ii) FREE WAIVER.—Section 605 of
7 title 23, United States Code, is amended
8 by adding at the end the following:

9 “(g) PROJECTS IN INNOVATION CENTERS.—Notwith-
10 standing any other provision of this chapter, in the case
11 of a project in an innovation center (as defined in section
12 2 of the Innovation Centers Acceleration Act), the Sec-
13 retary shall not require the payment of any fees under
14 section 603(b)(7), section 604(b)(9), or subsection (b).”.