

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AURP Representatives Demonstrated Support for U.S. EDA's Regional Innovation Program and the Startup Act During Meeting with Members of Congress

Tucson, AZ, March 12, 2018 – Association of University Research Parks (AURP) members and staff, in conjunction with State Science and Technology Institute (SSTI), met with U.S. Congressional members and delegates to demonstrate the association's support of, and to request additional funding for, the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Regional Innovation Program and an upcoming bill known as the Startup Act (S. 1877).

"The Regional Innovation Program and the Startup Act are important pieces of legislation that will foster a constant source of growth and development aimed at impacting communities throughout the country," said AURP CEO Carol Stewart. "University-based innovation centers and research parks regularly work with the programs and initiatives that would gain or continue to gain resources and support from these programs."

The EDA's Regional Innovation Program is an initiative that supports innovation-driving activities through state, regional and local entities to utilize existing resources, collaboration and continued support of economic recovery. These efforts are focused in high-growth industries by supporting local organizations to drive the transition of research out of labs and into the commercial marketplace through the vast experience and knowledge of entrepreneurs and a startup culture with proven success.

Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) introduced a bill for the Startup Act to continue the work started by the EDA's Regional Innovation Program. It is designed to ensure regions across the country have access to the tools needed to help drive job and business growth in local economies. Through the Startup Act, federal investments will be used to develop strategies and infuse capital into local economies, emphasizing commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors which are already strengths for the area. Ultimately, the bill will help to provide the EDA's program with \$100 million to be used towards outcome-based strategies to grow regional economies. The second aspect of the legislation is to accelerate the transition of tax-payer funded research into commercially-viable products by providing startups greater access to tangible resources to produce results.

"We're confident that the Startup Act will produce tangible and replicable results across communities in our country," said Brian Darmody, Associate Vice President for Corporate and Foundation Relations, University of Maryland, and past AURP President. "By fully funding the EDA's Regional Innovation Program, Congress can help local economies become competitive and self-propelled economic engines."



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARKS

About AURP

The Association of University Research Parks is a professional association of university related research and science parks. AURP's mission is to foster innovation, commercialization and economic growth through university, industry and government partnerships. For more information, visit AURP's Web site at www.aurp.net.

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