



Creating Communities of *Innovation*

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARKS

January 10, 2017

Mr. Donald Trump
Office of President-Elect
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-elect Trump:

On behalf of the Association of University Research Parks (AURP), and its 140 member parks across the United States, generating over \$9.4 Billion in GDP of economic impact and creating over 380,000 direct jobs, we are looking forward to working with you and your Administration as you take office as the 45th President of the United States.

In 1951, the United States invented the research park model at Stanford University in California, which also led to the eventual development of Silicon Valley. Since that time, research parks have expanded in the U.S. and, in particular, globally. But the linkage between U.S.-based research parks with sponsoring research universities remains the key ingredient in our country's place-based economic development strategy.

Research parks and innovation/venture districts represent the emerging *Innovation Infrastructure* in the United States. University research parks are engaged with local communities and exist in cities, suburban and rural jurisdictions across the country. They include centers of small business support, advanced manufacturing, technology incubation, biotechnology, cybersecurity, autonomous systems and the best of U.S. innovation practices.

A number of years ago, AURP authored two papers—the *Power of Place* and the *Power of Innovation*-- designed to help guide policy makers, better align federal policies and investment into new technology-led economic development opportunities at research parks, innovation districts, universities and the country in general. See, <http://www.aurp.net/power-of-place>

More recently, The Brookings Institution and the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) outlined 50 strategies your administration and Congress can pursue to improve the local impact of federal and private sector investments in innovation. Here is a link to the paper: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/localizing-the-economic-impact-of-research-and-development/>

A panel discussion in the Senate Dirksen Office Building in Washington, D.C., took place recently, including our former AURP President, and University of Maryland Associate Vice President Brian Darmody, that helped to promote the Brookings/ITIF ideas and related concepts of place-based innovation strategies. <https://www.brookings.edu/events/getting-more-bang-for-americas-rd-buck/>


Our parks are also advocating at the state and local levels with similar ideas to help remove barriers and provide investment to new infrastructure, business development, university startups, improved manufacturing, and other initiatives.

Together, we believe, we can work at local, state, and federal levels to implement these ideas and help provide more opportunities for transformational economic growth in the United States.

Our governing board is anxious to meet with members of your team as you develop ideas about federal infrastructure investments and removing barriers to innovation. Please let us know how we can arrange a discussion and help facilitate a dialogue. Your office can work through the AURP Director of Operations, Vickie Palmer at vickiepalmer@aurp.net.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Mason Ailstock, President, AURP; President and Chief Executive Officer, Convergent Consultants, PBC, (former) Chief Operating Officer, The Research Triangle Park of North Carolina

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Mason Ailstock, President, AURP; President and Chief Executive Officer, Convergent Consultants, PBC, (*former*) Chief Operating Officer, The Research Triangle Park of North Carolina

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