



San Benito County Board of Supervisors

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December 11, 2018

A. Leonard Smith, Regional Director

Jackson Federal Building

915 Second Avenue, Room 1890

Seattle, WA 98174-1001

Re: Letter of support for FY 2018 EDA Notice of Funding Opportunity (CFDA Number: 11.307)

Dear Mr. Smith:

The County of San Benito would like to express our support for the California, State University Monterey Bay's LaunchPad Incubator proposal to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This proposal to provide incubation services would increase the successful formation of new ventures in the region.

Many new entrepreneurs drop out because they don't have access to assistance they need to make their great product a viable company. This new program will fill critical gaps in the region's entrepreneurship ecosystem by helping startup and nascent businesses in the region bridge the gap from idea to launch by providing guidance through the early stages to keep them on track and focused. The Monterey Bay region needs new entrepreneurs to succeed to renew, diversity and expand the regional economy.

I have very pleased to support this proposal as a vital component to implement our 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). Your support of this proposal will help us further collaborate with our regional partners to greatly improve our local business and community ecosystems, achieve San Benito County's CEDs goals and economic development strategies.

Sincerely,

Anthony Botelho
Chair of the Board
San Benito County