

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
U.S. Senator & Chair,  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress and Chair,  
U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology  
2306 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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Clarence E. Anthony

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Chair Cantwell, and Chair Johnson,

On behalf of the National League of Cities (NLC) and the nation's more than 19,000 cities, towns, and villages, **we commend the House and Senate for advancing the Bipartisan Innovation Act.** The Act will create good jobs and enhance global competitiveness, thereby benefiting cities and towns. This comprehensive measure brings together two innovative competitiveness bills from the House and Senate to invest in solutions that will expand access to opportunity for all of our residents and stimulate more equitable outcomes.

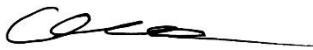
We urge swift appointment of Members to the conference committee so that this important legislation can continue to advance. Once seated, we will urge Members of the conference to retain key programs of importance to cities that were included in the House-passed America COMPETES Act (H.R. 4521), including:

- The **Recompete Pilot Program**, which would provide \$4 billion to communities experiencing persistent economic distress over four years. The funding will support long-term economic development and lasting job creation in those communities. Local governments would be directly eligible for this funding, which is critical because local leaders are planning and implementing post-pandemic, economic recovery measures that should be in concert with federal resources allocated to similar ends.
- The **JOBS Act**, which would expand access to Pell grants to enroll in high-quality, short-term training programs. This new flexibility will benefit local employers and workers by creating access to more career pathways at a time when worker shortages are prevalent in many sectors of our local economies.

- The **National Apprenticeship Act**, which would promote the expansion of apprenticeship tracks within cities, towns and villages and improve diversity in these programs that provide strong career pathways for participants; and support cities in meeting the workforce needs of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to reach out to Stephanie Martinez-Ruckman, Legislative Director for Human Development ([martinez-ruckman@nlc.org](mailto:martinez-ruckman@nlc.org)), or Mike Wallace, Legislative Director for Community and Economic Development ([wallace@nlc.org](mailto:wallace@nlc.org)) at NLC if you have any questions or would like to discuss further how these programs will lift up American communities.

Sincerely,



Clarence E. Anthony  
CEO and Executive Director