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## United States Senate

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April 24, 2020

The Honorable Tim Thomas  
Federal Co-Chair  
Appalachian Regional Commission  
1666 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20009-1068

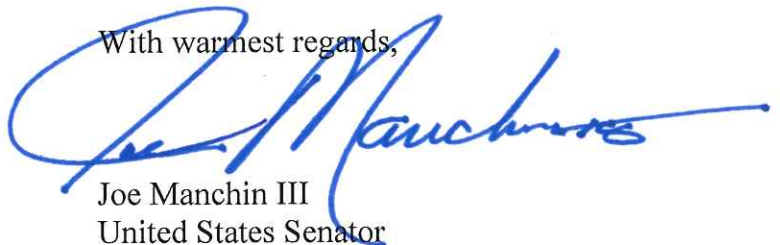
Dear Chairman Thomas,

I have been alerted that **Region 2 Planning and Development Council**, in coordination with Marshall University and other strategic partners, are submitting an application to the Appalachian Regional Commission under the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative.

I am writing to express my support for Region 2 Planning and Development Council, their partners, and this application. I understand that, if approved, funding provided by this opportunity will be utilized to support the Tri-State Aviation Maintenance Technician Start-Up (TAMTS) program. Specifically, this joint effort with Marshall University's School of Aviation and Mountwest Community and Technical College will allow individuals to obtain a certificate and pursue a career as a maintenance technician in the aviation industry. This program not only will create a pipeline of skilled workers that are in high demand within the burgeoning aerospace industry but will help attract further economic development and diversification in the region.

I appreciate your noting my strong interest and support of this application and providing it a full and fair review. I am proud to lend my support to this project and others like it that seek to enhance workforce opportunity, create jobs and economic growth, and improve the lives of West Virginians. If you have questions please contact Ryan Thorn in my Charleston office at 304-342-5855. Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration.

With warmest regards,



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

JM/rt