

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

June 23, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin, III  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Austin,

We write to request thorough consideration of the Commercial Leap Ahead for Wide-bandgap Semiconductors (CLAWS) proposal submitted under the Department of Defense (DoD) Microelectronic Commons request for solicitation. North Carolina State University (NC State) would lead the CLAWS hub in partnership with advanced technology companies and academic institutions such as Adroit Materials, General Electric, Kyma, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T), and Wolfspeed.

CLAWS is focused on accelerating the development of wide- and ultrawide-bandgap (WBG and UWBG, respectively) semiconductors to help meet DoD's present and future needs. WBG and UWBG semiconductors are essential for national security and would assure DoD technological superiority over adversaries by providing new capabilities, efficiencies, and size, weight, and performance advantages for critical applications including weapons systems and communications. Additionally, this investment in WBG technologies will have an enormous dual-use defense and commercial potential to improve microgrids and the larger power grid.

As a world-class research institution, NC State is uniquely positioned with subject matter expertise, facilities, and experience in managing joint industry and academia institutes with long-term sustainability. With its partners, NC State has unparalleled access to materials, fabrication, packaging, and testing capacity such that prototypes can be demonstrated and that system-level and programmatic decisions can be made without delay. NC State's model and workforce approach are anchored by decades of working with WBG semiconductor companies (including CREE/Wolfspeed, Kyma, Adroit, Hexatech).

NC State and NC A&T are already active in workforce development and have enhanced the training and recruiting efforts of WBG semiconductor companies like Wolfspeed. This includes NC A&T's efforts to develop the relevant curriculum, experiential learning programs and career pathways for the next generation of diverse, highly skilled semiconductor workforce. North Carolina's skills-focused and industry integrated community college system allows for a comprehensive approach to workforce development, which would benefit the DoD's Microelectronic Commons mission under the CLAWS proposal.

It is important that we reinvest in young technical expertise to maintain the United States technological lead, and the CLAWS proposal is uniquely situated to advance this priority. We

believe this proposal fits into the DoD's larger strategic vision to enable and create a self-sustaining industry capable of meeting the requirements of DoD's mission.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



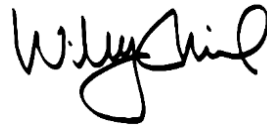
Deborah Ross  
Member of Congress



David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel  
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



Jeff Jackson  
Member of Congress



Valerie Foushee  
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning  
Member of Congress