

July 19, 2023

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Barry R. Finegold, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Economic Development
and Emerging Technologies
State House Room 511-A
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Jerald A. Parisella, House Chair
Joint Committee on Economic Development
and Emerging Technologies
State House Room 42
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Peter J. Durant
Assistant Minority Leader
State House Room 413-A
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable David K. Muradian, Jr.
State Representative, 9th Worcester
State House Room 156
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio) Statement to the Committee of Conference on the Life Sciences Initiative Reauthorization within S.2869/H.4808, *An Act relative to strengthening Massachusetts' economic leadership*

Dear Chairs Rodrigues, Michlewitz, Finegold, and Parisella, Senator Durant, and Representative Muradian:

On behalf of the over 1,700 members of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio) I write to urge you to accept the reauthorization of the Life Sciences Initiative at \$1 billion over the next ten years, including a capital bond authorization of \$500 million for the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and an increase of the Life Sciences Tax Incentive cap to \$50 million, as contained within H.4808 and as originally introduced by Governor Healey.

MassBio's members are dedicated to preventing, treating, and curing diseases through transformative science and cutting-edge technologies right here in Massachusetts, making us the global epicenter of life sciences research, development and innovation. Over the past decade and a half, Massachusetts' burgeoning life sciences cluster has earned national and international acclaim due to effective public-private partnerships, strategic industry development, and a series of intentional investments from our leaders in government.

The original Life Sciences Initiative, signed into law in June 2008, introduced a sweeping package of infrastructure improvements, early-stage investments, and tax incentives to effectuate job growth and secure the Commonwealth's position as a leading life sciences state through the creation of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC). This original investment and its first reauthorization in 2015 have proven to be an unqualified success for both the competitiveness of the state economy and the innumerable patients benefiting from innovative therapies worldwide.

According to [MassBio's 2023 Industry Snapshot](#), Massachusetts' growth is not happening in Middlesex County or Cambridge alone, but in Suffolk County (+29.1%) and Worcester County (+18.4%) as well.

Despite the perceived industry downturn, the Commonwealth has added over 3,000 biopharma jobs through 2023. Further, employment in the Massachusetts biomanufacturing space rose 6.3%, higher than competitor states like New Jersey (5.8%), Maryland (4.6%), and North Carolina (1.8%).

Despite our wins, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. Competitor states are at Massachusetts' heels, undertaking targeted investments to seed and grow life sciences research, development, and biomanufacturing ecosystems back home based on our example.

A full ten-year commitment will give companies the timing they need to continue confidently investing in Massachusetts' ecosystem and its workforce with a clearer understanding of the returns they can realize by staying and growing right here. A \$500 million authorization to the MLSC within that time will likewise allow security by committing necessary resources towards workforce training, internships, and funding for early-stage companies in the form of grants or loans. Finally, an increase to the Life Sciences Tax Incentive Program – which includes clawback mechanisms for failed commitments and has already proven successful in incentivizing job creation and company retention in Massachusetts – is fitting to retain in a piece of legislation designed to do just that.

The life sciences industry is young, and it still has far to go. Massachusetts took advantage of its initial potential in 2008 and now, as 18 of the top 20 biopharmaceutical companies call Massachusetts home and we begin to experience benefits the industry can provide while better understanding where it has yet to go, we cannot do our own investments an injustice by nipping them in the bud.

As you deliberate a final version of this session's economic development bond bill, the state's life sciences industry implores you to see fit to include a full \$1 billion authorization to the life sciences over the next decade, including \$500 million towards the MLSC and an increase to the Tax Incentive Program cap to \$50 million. Thank you for your work on this legislation and for your commitment to the economic future of the Commonwealth. Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact me directly at either (617)-674-5100 or kendalle.oconnell@massbio.org.

Sincerely,



Kendalle Burlin O'Connell
President and CEO
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio)

CC: The Honorable Karen E. Spilka, Massachusetts Senate President
The Honorable Ron Mariano, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives

