



April 14, 2023

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On behalf of the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce, we request your support of the **Florida Tech – Biomedical Aerospace Manufacturing (BAM)** project as requested in HF 0076 for \$2,000,000 and as potentially funded in the General Appropriations Act this 2023 legislative session.

The Florida Institute of Technology (Florida Tech), a nationally-ranked Florida STEM university, is pursuing BAM specialized equipment platform supporting multidisciplinary engineering and entrepreneurship education. Accelerated technology access will increase engineering workforce availability, hands-on project work, and career awareness for the growing Biomedical, Aerospace and Manufacturing industries in Florida.

This Florida Tech BAM project will positively impact our organization due to enhanced educational processes for students and faculty in our region with the potential availability of BAM platform, aerospace-related, space exploration and spacecraft engineering equipment. The Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce, per our Guiding Policy Principles, recognizes that our region, known as the "Space Coast," serves as the center of innovation and industry and remarkable achievements in the fields of biomedical science, aerospace, and manufacturing. The growth and success of such affiliated industries is vital for continued economic diversity of our MSA and the recruitment and retention of the talent necessary to fill the high-skill, high-wage jobs created.

For Florida regions like the Space Coast to maintain a position as a top ten Best Performing City by the Milken Institute, a highly skilled workforce is critical. Therefore, I respectfully request your support of the *Florida Tech – Biomedical Aerospace Manufacturing (BAM)* project to remain in the General Appropriations Act as it is potentially funded to help accelerate higher education workforce development in Florida.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Lane
President & CEO
Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce