



Norm Archibald
Mayor

March 13, 2009

The Honorable Randy Neugebauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1424 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Biotech Facility Equipment

Dear Congressman Neugebauer:

I am writing to request your support for \$300,000 in FY 2010 funding to purchase equipment for the biotech facility that the community is building in Abilene. We greatly appreciate your support for \$142,500 in FY 2009 HUD Economic Development Initiative funding for this project. The FY 2009 funding and the requested FY 2010 funding will help to ensure that the facility has the necessary research tools.

The Development Corporation of Abilene (DCOA), the City's economic development arm, is building a new biotech facility, known as the Life Sciences Accelerator, which will provide leased laboratory and office space to biotech companies. This project is a key component of a larger initiative to develop Abilene's biotech capabilities, diversify the regional economy, and bring higher-paying research jobs to the community.

The project will cost approximately \$6.3 million. The DCOA is providing most of the funding, including construction funding. The HUD EDI funds will be used to buy equipment for research work and will support our efforts to make this a successful regional economic development initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norm Archibald', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Norm Archibald
Mayor