
October 5th, 2023

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Subject: Letter of Commitment / MOONSHOT EDA-RECOMPETE / PHASE1 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support of the Recompete Phase 1 application as submitted by Moonshot, an Arizona 501c3 nonprofit serving the region for 20 years.

This Moonshot “Virtual Gorilla” initiative, which is a term coined by U.S. factory owners to describe Moonshot’s partner REFASHIOND OS’ vision for reestablishing U.S. fiber to finished soft goods and apparel manufacturing, will greatly support and strengthen the historically underserved local communities, starting with Tribal Nations. Moonshot has long-standing relationships in the Arizona manufacturing sector and a successful track record of fostering collaboration among key stakeholders from local businesses, educational institutions, government agencies, and community leaders to support their workforce and advanced manufacturing development programs.

This includes Moonshot’s AZ Stitch Lab in partnership with local Tribal Nations for job creation, workforce development, and infrastructure that has improved the quality of life for Arizona residents and enhanced the overall economic vitality of the region.

With the support of the EDA, Moonshot and their partners can position Arizona as The Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Hub to reinvigorate the entire U.S. fibers to finished soft goods industry as a reshoring destination for brands, while also supporting the needs of our DoD, government, and NGOs.

We're excited to collaborate with Moonshot and their broad coalition of support to make this initiative a resounding success. The National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce is honored to pledge our support to the coalition in the following areas:

- *We strongly support the introduction of advanced micro manufacturing to Puerto Rico as it perfectly aligns with our mission of promoting innovation and fostering workforce development on the island.*
- *We aim to assist the Puerto Rican diaspora by facilitating their access to micro manufacturing facilities. This presents a valuable opportunity for a traditionally underserved market.*
- *We have a strong supply chain and logistics expertise, which makes us well-equipped to provide solutions for distribution-related issues.*

I strongly urge the selection committee to approve Moonshot's application as we believe their coalition to be a combination of world class leadership and innovation led strategy that will create an unmatched opportunity for the region, and the nation, with long-term careers and entrepreneurship opportunities in historically underemployed and marginalized communities.

If you require any additional information or have any questions regarding this letter of support or Moonshot's application, please feel free to contact me at joelb@nprchamber.org.

Sincerely,

Joel Berrocal

Joel Berrocal - Executive Director
The National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce
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