

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2016

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: United States Investment Advisory Council

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

We write as a Representatives of Central Ohio's Congressional districts in support of Kenny McDonald's application to the Commerce Department's Investment Advisory Council (IAC). Kenny has been a leading force for engagement between our local community and the global investment world, and his background and credentials would greatly enhance the mission of the IAC.

Since his arrival as President and CEO of Columbus 2020, Kenny has served as a primary leader for economic development and business attraction efforts for the 11-county Columbus Region. Working with state and local partners, Columbus 2020 has worked toward, and achieved, sustainable economic growth in the nation's 15th largest city and its neighboring counties. Economic growth has been made possible through leadership, cooperation, and investment with local, national, and international corporate leaders, local elected leadership, and in the successful marketing of the Columbus region for international growth.

Kenny's focus on increased exports and foreign direct investment has led to increased job opportunities for Ohioans. This has translated in Columbus becoming a leader across multiple indices in the Midwest, made evident by ranking first in the region in population growth, job growth, and GDP growth. Additionally, Columbus is home to 29 Fortune 500 companies and hosts the 10th most active foreign trade zone in the nation. This FTZ includes most of Central Ohio and spans 25 counties, enabling the region and its employers to save time and economic resources on negotiating the customs process. This had led to a stronger international competitiveness for the entire region. Kenny has successfully led the region in utilizing Central Ohio's strengths and institutions to spur regional economic development, making it a microcosm for future economic development.

Kenny is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) and has been recognized as a Top 50 North American Economic Developer of 2015. He is a respected leader nationally for his work in Columbus, as well as his previous efforts on behalf of the Charlotte region and in the private sector.

Before his time in Columbus, Kenny served as Executive Vice President (EVP) of the Charlotte Regional Partnership and as a principal consultant to Fluor Daniels Global Locations Strategies. As EVP of the Charlotte Regional Partnership, Kenny assisted economic development in 16 counties located throughout both North Carolina and South Carolina.

Along with his current and past economic development experience, Kenny has served on various local and national boards and committees, including: The Board of the Columbus Chamber, MidAmerican Global Ventures, NAIOP Central Ohio, SciTech, and as Chairman of the Planning and Business Development Committees for the International Economic Development Council. These positions have necessitated extensive work with company executives, local, state, and federal stakeholders, and international organizations.

As a professional with over two decades of experience in economic development, and more importantly a history of bringing all the partners in economic development together, Kenny is ideally suited for this position. We support his application wholeheartedly and urge your utmost consideration.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Pat Tiberi
Representative to Congress



Steve Stivers
Representative to Congress



Joyce Beatty
Representative to Congress