



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**The Secretary of Commerce**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

July 14, 2017

The Honorable Mike Pence  
President of the Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to submit the annual report on the activities of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce, for Fiscal Year 2016, in compliance with Section 603 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 3213). The EDA strengthens innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems that will increase the prospect of advancing commerce and trade between participating economies and accelerate business opportunities for all stakeholders.

In every state and territory, EDA grants have worked to advance global competitiveness, foster the creation of high-paying jobs, and invest public and private resources strategically. This year's annual report highlights those accomplishments. The report is designed to be a web-based resource. An interactive map allows readers to quickly retrieve the FY 2016 summary and case studies of investments having significant impact in any given state or territory. With just one click, communities can see the transformative projects the EDA has undertaken with local partners in their region and around the country. I have enclosed a printed copy of the report for your review. To review the complete report, the online version is available at <https://www.eda.gov/annual-reports/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wilbur Ross".

Wilbur Ross