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## Letter of Support for the Missouri Science and Technology (MOST) Policy Fellowship:

Working through the University of Missouri, we seek to establish a pre- and post-doctoral Science and Technology Policy Fellowship (MOST Policy Fellowship) to assist with evidence-based policy decisions in the State of Missouri. Scientifically trained fellows would inform legislators of potential outcomes associated with proposed policy, in order *to promote long-term health, sustainability, and economic growth for Missouri communities*. The State of Missouri is an excellent candidate in which to establish a state-level policy fellowship program due to the general assembly structure, growing science and technology industries in the state, and trends in outward migration of locally trained professional scientists. This program would be the first and only state science and technology policy fellowship in our region, and the first nationwide program not sponsored through a foundational grant associated with the State of California.

A legislative science and technology policy fellow would provide much needed resources for Missouri State House and Senate. The fellow would assist in scientific, rather than legal, research before bills are written, and also help to inform senators and representatives on benefits and consequences of pending statutes and regulations. Outside of the short legislative session, fellows will assist with building evidence-based research capacity and training workshops for legislators and staff, giving them confidence to address issues about which they feel passionate and better address the needs of their constituents.

Rather than seeking funding through state appropriations, funding for the MOST Policy Fellowships would be obtained from third party foundations and industries interested in advancing evidence-based science and technology policy in the State of Missouri. Ethical guidelines will be established through future legislation to assure objective, unbiased advice is provided by the fellows participating in the program, similar to guidelines established by similar programs throughout the country.

As a member of the Missouri State Legislature, I support the formation of an objective, non-partisan Missouri Science and Technology Policy Fellowship and the advancement of evidence-based policy in the State of Missouri to best serve constituents and set a nationwide standard for excellence in science and technology policy.

Sincerely,

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