



04/16/24

RE: HF 5143

Members of the House Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committee,

Medical Alley represents a global network of more than 800 leading health technology and care companies including representation from all corners of the state of Minnesota. Our mission is to activate and amplify healthcare transformation.

Recognized worldwide as a leader in healthcare innovation, Minnesota sets a standard for excellence – impacting local communities and influencing global health outcomes and advancements. With access, affordability, and quality as top priorities, Medical Alley and our partners are committed to developing solutions which drive meaningful change and save lives.

It is with these guiding principles that we extend our support for House File 5143, which would establish a BioTech Innovation District in the city of Brooklyn Park.

Equitable Job Creation

Brooklyn Park is home to nearly 90,000 residents — 60% of which identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and where one in four people speaks a language other than English at home. The city is Minnesota's sixth largest and one of the most diverse. Yet, Brooklyn Park faces disparities related to health, income, and public safety outcomes.

The establishment of a BioTech Innovation District would create as many as 10,000 quality and sustainable jobs to the benefit of residents of the city and those surrounding it. With a focus on inclusivity, the district would empower the region's diverse talents and perspectives, ensuring that development in biotechnology and healthcare directly contributes to improving the quality of life. This investment would also enable local programs like the BrookLynk Workforce Development Initiative to synergize with these advancements, amplifying its impact by connecting youth and underserved populations with education, training, and employment opportunities in the burgeoning biotech sector.

Innovation

Progress in the biotechnology industry has the potential to improve lives in ways we've only begun to imagine. From revolutionizing healthcare through personalized medicine and cutting-edge treatments to addressing global challenges such as food security, environmental sustainability, and disease prevention — biotechnology stands at the forefront of innovation.

The biotechnology market is anticipated to grow significantly, driven by increasing demand for diagnostics, therapies for major diseases, and biopharmaceutical research. The global biotechnology market, valued at \$1.38 trillion in 2023, is expected to reach \$4.25 trillion by 2033.

Brooklyn Park and Minnesota have a unique opportunity to leverage these advancements to position this region as a leader in this transformative industry. A mixed-used district would incentivize innovative companies to come to Minnesota, fostering a vibrant ecosystem where entrepreneurship and research thrive.

Economic Development

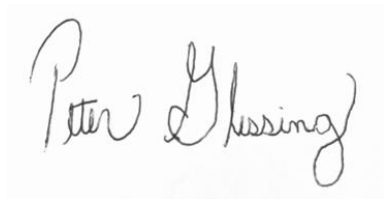
Brooklyn Park has been successful in attracting some of Medical Alley's leading health technology and care companies. International companies such as Medtronic, Steris, Olympus Surgical and more have all established a presence near the Highway 610 corridor. Still, there is significant room to grow within the city's borders.

With more than 700 developable acres of land, Brooklyn Park has the capacity to support medical and pharmaceutical manufacturing and other biotech industry companies into a vibrant mixed-use development district. Adjustments to Tax Increment Financing in three target geographic areas would catalyze private investment in housing and commercial areas. The BioTech Innovation District would support an estimated 3,000 additional housing units.

Medical Alley is home to one of the most diverse and influential healthcare ecosystems in the world. This initiative represents a strategic investment in the region's future. By establishing a BioTech Innovation District in Brooklyn Park, we set a standard for cities across Minnesota by demonstrating a proactive approach to harnessing the power of innovation for economic development and public health improvement. We believe this project will make the northwest metro a national and international destination for biotech manufacturing for Minnesota – attracting and growing new businesses, cultivating next-generation Minnesota workforce talent, incentivizing innovation, and reducing disparities throughout the region.

Medical Alley respectfully urges legislators to support House File 5143.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Glessing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Peter Glessing

Senior Director of Policy & Advocacy

Medical Alley