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April 20, 2021

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**Re: Senate Bill 1094- AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE
FOR CTNEXT AND THE INNOVATION PLACE PROGRAM.**

Dear Honorable Chairmen Fonfara and Scanlon, Ranking Members Martin and Cheeseman, and distinguished members of the Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee

On behalf of BIO, BioCT and our Board of Directors, as shown, we are writing in support of SB 1094, An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for CTNext and the Innovation Place Program. BioCT represents over 250 life sciences companies, academic institutions, service providers and patient organizations, many directly engaged in the research, development and manufacturing of innovative products to improve patients' lives and public health as well as driving economic growth.

The bioscience industry is growing in Connecticut. The state is beginning to get recognition by the industry as an emerging cluster of innovation. They key economic drivers for a sustainable bio ecosystem/cluster are as follows:

- Academic Centers of Excellence- innovation to commercialization/Startups
- Access to Financing
- **Lab Space**
- **Talent**
- Entrepreneurs

The New Haven Innovation Collaborative has been instrumental in supporting the growth of the bioscience industry in New Haven by supporting initiatives to build lab space and talent. Their funding of SCSU's BioPath program is creating the workforce development programs the bio industry in Connecticut needs to sustain the future of our biotech companies. They are supporting New Haven's desperate need of lab space with the recent funding collaboration of Pierce Laboratories, BioPath and BioCT to build incubator space at Pierce Laboratories in New Haven. This lab space was made possible by the funds that CTNext provides. Without this important support, Connecticut will not be in a position to grow the industry in the primary bio cluster of New Haven.

Connecticut is recognized as a state of innovation. However, we cannot recruit bio companies or keep our startups here if there is no lab space available or talent to support their needs. BioCT implores you to continue the CTNext program with The New Haven Innovation Place Program so the bio industry has a resource to help compete with our neighboring states that have built hundreds of labs and programs to support this vital economic high wage industry.

Sincerely,

Dawn Hocevar

Dawn Hocevar
CEO

BioCT 