



FOR RELEASE: October 23, 2023

STATEMENT FROM JOSEPH STEFKO, ROC2025 PRESIDENT AND CEO, ON AWARD OF REGIONAL TECH HUB DESIGNATION FOR BUFFALO-ROCHESTER-SYRACUSE CONSORTIUM (NY SMART I-CORRIDOR)

“The Buffalo-Rochester-Syracuse tech hub is official. What an amazing day for Greater Rochester and the entire Upstate corridor. Today, President Biden and Senate Majority Leader Schumer announced that the NY SMART I-Corridor, spanning Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse has been designated as a federal Tech Hub by the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Economic Development Administration. It turns out that when you bring together three top-15 ranked metros from *Jump Starting America’s* Tech Hub Index, remarkable things can happen!

“More than two years ago, we committed to building a consortium greater than the sum of its parts. We were confident that, working together with a unified vision, our super-region could meet this moment and fulfill the mission of the Tech Hubs Program.

“The vision we created together – alongside industry, higher education, government, philanthropy, labor, workforce development, economic development – was as unique nationally its commitment was strong to advancing not just growth, but growth that elevates our entire region and expands opportunity for all.

“Today’s designation validates what we’ve known all along: That this region is poised to lead the way for generations to come. It also validates the power of working collaboratively. The power of partnership.



“Countless thanks are due to those that helped make this happen – whose commitment to working regionally, collaboratively, and authentically have opened new opportunities for all of us. In addition to our federal leaders Senator Schumer and Congressman Morelle, I’m particularly indebted to Christina Orsi (Oishei Foundation) and Dottie Gallagher (Buffalo Niagara Partnership) in Buffalo, and Rob Simpson and Ben Sio (CenterState CEO) in Syracuse for their leadership. And in Rochester, the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Greater Rochester Enterprise, Empire State Development, University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, Monroe Community College, UNICON, Rochester Gas & Electric, and so many more industry partners.

“We’re excited to get to work. The future starts now, and it runs right through our region.”

###