

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PHASE II OF THE REGIONAL APPLICATION FOR THE
BUILD BACK BETTER CHALLENGE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**

WHEREAS, a recent study by Applied Analysis and commissioned by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) estimated that travel restrictions, resort closings and other pandemic-related responses led to a 55 percent drop in visitor volume to 19.0 million, the lowest annual total since 1989; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 impacts on the hospitality industry resulted in a record-breaking 33.3% unemployment rate in April 2020; and

WHEREAS, Southern Nevada was also the hardest hit region during the Great Recession, with record-breaking levels of foreclosures, an almost 15% unemployment rate in 2010, and numerous stalled construction projects; and

WHEREAS, a recent report from SRI International, commissioned by the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), stated that Northern Nevada has been able to better diversify its economy than Southern Nevada, where tourism and gaming continues to dominate the region's economy; and

WHEREAS, improving our region's resilience to future economic downturns lies in diversifying our regional economy; and

WHEREAS, the Build Back Better Regional Challenge is designed to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks; and

WHEREAS, the \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge will provide a transformational investment to 20-30 regions across the country that want to revitalize their economies; and

WHEREAS, successful applicant regions will have access up to \$100 million for the opportunity to grow new regional industry clusters or scale existing ones through planning, infrastructure, innovation and entrepreneurship, workforce development, access to capital, and more; and

WHEREAS, a truly regional group of economic development professionals representing each of the local governments as well as several higher education institutions and led by the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA) have collaborated to develop an application for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge that addresses Southern Nevada's industry diversification; and

WHEREAS, this cooperative regional application will significantly support the expansion of advanced manufacturing in the Apex, Sloan, and Mesquite areas as well as build support services for the manufacturing sector in Southern Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration sent notification on December 13, 2021, that Southern Nevada's regional application was 1 of 60 finalists selected to move into phase II of the Build Back Better Regional Challenge application process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Clark County does hereby support phase II of the Build Back Better Regional Challenge application which aims to create opportunities to significantly diversify our economy by focusing on the development of advanced manufacturing capabilities, including:

- a. Development of the Apex Manufacturing Area through the development of the Apex Water Line, and
- b. Development of the Sloan Manufacturing Area through the construction of an interchange at I-15 and Via Nobila, as well as funding for project analysis, design services for water and other utility infrastructure and development of a master plan for the manufacturing park; and
- c. Enhancement of education and acceleration for advanced manufacturing through converting existing space to a biomedical advanced manufacturing facility, developing a regional startup initiative for advanced manufacturing, expanding advanced manufacturing and applied science training, and developing support services for advanced manufacturing companies to grow or relocate to Southern Nevada; and
- d. Developing an area in the city of Mesquite through grading land that can easily be used by advanced manufacturing operations.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED on this _____ day of January 2022.

CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
James B. Gibson, Chair