



September 8, 2016

City of Franklin Economic Development Commission
70 E. Monroe Street
Franklin, Indiana 46131

Dear Economic Development Commission Members:

Several community organizations active in economic development activities in and around the Franklin area have agreed to partner in support of a common initiative important to each entity. Co-working has been a topic of discussion in the community for a number of years. Co-working has been an effective economic development tool in many other communities. Co-working facilities have proven to serve as innovative hubs for entrepreneurs and small business professionals. Many small companies in the Franklin area would benefit from this type of facility. A place where business people from all different sectors can come together and utilize each other's skills to grow their own business. Seventy-one percent of firms in Johnson County employ 1-9 employees. Small business drives the economic vitality of the community.

Each non-profit that has agreed to partner on this initiative is willing and able to support co-working in a unique way.

Each year the City of Franklin Economic Development Commission generously disburses funds to non-profits active in economic development activities. This year, we encourage you to support a new economic development effort. With the support of the economic development fees, a co-working initiative will finally have the jump start it needs to get underway. The longer we put off this important initiative, the longer our small business and entrepreneurial community suffers. We encourage you to join us in supporting this worthwhile initiative as an investment in Franklin economic future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Mercer", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey R. Mercer
President (Franklin Development Corporation)