



JOHNSON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORP

October 6, 2016

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

Dear Economic Development Commission Members:

As you are aware, many organizations including the Mayor's office have been in discussions about the need for a co-working space in Franklin for the last couple of years. Through our own research, we know there is a gap in the market for flexible space that would support existing small business and attract new entrepreneurs to our community. We also know these spaces can serve as centers for creative thinking and innovation. As Franklin continues to grow its competitive advantage, it will be critical to have the right infrastructure in place to support the kinds of sectors that appeal to the creative class and millennials—both of which are the future.

While these conversations and additional research have continued among the various stakeholders, to-date no movement has occurred to secure such a space. All the while, other communities around the state have addressed the need.

We understand there has been discussion about the possible use of the Economic Development Fees as seed funding for a co-working space. We believe a public/private partnership may be the key to a successful project in Franklin and strongly encourage you to consider this option.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are in support of the Commission's use of these funds to further the economic development efforts of Franklin.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Morphew,
President & CEO