



*The Office of*  
Kenneth E. Gulley  
Mayor

*City of Bessemer*

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**Dave D. Paige**

**Dave Paige and Company/The Beyond Foundation**

Dear Dave D. Paige

I am writing this letter to express my wholehearted support for the development of the EDTECH Innovation District in downtown Bessemer. It is with great enthusiasm that I endorse this transformative initiative, which promises to usher in a new era of growth and innovation for our beloved city.

The EDTECH Innovation District holds immense promise for Bessemer in various aspects, and I believe it aligns perfectly with our vision for a prosperous and dynamic community. As we embark on this journey, I want to highlight a few key reasons why this initiative deserves our unwavering support:

- **Economic Advancement:** The development of the EDTECH Innovation District will undoubtedly stimulate economic growth in Bessemer. By attracting technology-driven businesses, entrepreneurs, and investors, we have the potential to create a thriving hub of innovation that will lead to job creation, increased tax revenues, and improved economic opportunities for our residents.
- **Educational Excellence:** This initiative will be instrumental in enhancing educational opportunities within our city. It will provide a platform for educational institutions, startups, and industry leaders to collaborate and develop programs that prepare our students for the future workforce. By doing so, we strengthen our public school system and empower our youth with the skills they need to succeed.
- **Workforce Development:** The EDTECH Innovation District will catalyze workforce development. It will connect local talent with employment opportunities within the technology and innovation sectors, fostering a skilled and competitive workforce that will attract businesses seeking top-tier talent.
- **Small Business Support:** Our commitment to nurturing small businesses is a cornerstone of this initiative. The district will provide resources and support for entrepreneurs and small business owners, enabling them to thrive and contribute to our local economy.
- **Investor Engagement:** By showcasing our dedication to innovation, we become an attractive destination for investors interested in supporting cutting-edge technologies and startups. Their investments will further fuel the growth of our innovation ecosystem.

- **Affordable Housing Development:** Collaborative efforts stemming from the EDTECH Innovation District can also contribute to affordable housing initiatives, ensuring that our community remains inclusive and accessible to all.
- **Public Safety and Talent Creation:** Innovation has the potential to enhance public safety, and this initiative can serve as a platform for innovative solutions. It will also foster talent creation, reducing the migration of talent away from our city.

In conclusion, the EDTECH Innovation District represents a pivotal opportunity for Bessemer to lead in the realm of technology, innovation, and economic development. It is a reflection of our commitment to progress and the well-being of our community.

I wholeheartedly support this initiative and look forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure its success. Bessemer's future is bright, and the EDTECH Innovation District will play a central role in realizing our shared vision.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our great city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth E. Gulley', written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth E. Gulley, Mayor