



October 14, 2008

Mrs. Paula Harper Bethea
Chair, Review Board
Centers of Economic Excellence
19 Hanover Way
Bluffton, SC 29910

Dear Paula:

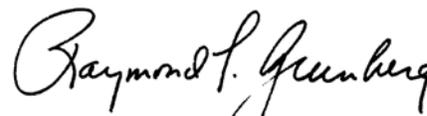
At your request, we are writing to follow-up on a topic that was discussed at the last Review Board meeting. Specifically, the three research universities are shouldering a growing administrative burden in managing the Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) program. As discussed at the meeting, each of the universities handles the staffing of the program differently, but on each campus there is a considerable amount of financial and programmatic reporting. We estimate that the workload at each university has reached the equivalent of about two full time positions, at an annual cost of about \$100,000 per university for personnel (including fringe benefits). With two rounds of budget cuts already this year, and at least one coming soon, we simply can no longer afford to pay these costs out of existing funds.

We hope that this letter provides sufficient information for the Board to consider our request to fund the administrative management of the CoEE program. If we can provide further information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,



James Barker, FAIA
Clemson University



Raymond Greenberg, MD, PhD
Medical University of South
Carolina



Harris Pastides, PhD
University of South
Carolina