The Honorable [First and Last Name of Senator/Rep]

[Room/Building]

Washington, DC [zip code]

Dear [Senator/Representative] [Last Name]:

I am writing today on behalf of [company/university] based in [city], Montana in support of the newly-formed Congressional Optics & Photonics Caucus. The Caucus is cochaired by Representatives Joe Morelle (D-NY) and Brian Mast (R-FL) and Senators Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) and Steve Daines (R-MT). The Caucus recently launched at the end of February. If you missed the event you can watch it HERE (insert link).

Optics and photonics is the science of light. Technologies that are enabled by light include lasers, sensors, cameras and lenses. Our military depends on this technology including LiDAR for tactical mapping, laser rangefinders to measure distance to a target, infrared to see at night, and next generation weaponry using directed energy. Optics and photonics also underpin many healthcare technologies, including imaging equipment such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and CAT Scans, as well as lasers for surgery and microscopes for disease research. Manufacturing and design have been revolutionized with 3D printing, robotics and industrial lasers for precise cutting and wielding techniques. Many of the critical technologies of the future, such as autonomous vehicles, quantum applications, 5G and artificial intelligence are also enabled by optics and photonics.

In the current fight against COVID-19, optics and photonics has played a significant role. Both clinics and companies are utilizing infrared-based thermometers for contactless early detection of infected individuals. 3D printing has been utilized for rapid manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE) and parts for ventilators. As the healthcare community races toward discovery of a vaccine, optic and photonic enabled gene-sequencing instruments contribute through state-of-the-art multispectral cameras to map the sequences of hundreds of millions of target DNA molecules.

Within the State of XX, [Writer’s affiliated company/university specific information. Products produced/education areas taught, etc].

[State specific industry information: Revenue, jobs, number of companies]. Additionally, The University of [name] and [name] community college are training the next generation of skilled professionals in this technology area necessary for the future of U.S. innovation in many critical areas for both national and economic security.

The Optics & Photonics Caucus will serve as an educational tool for both members and their staff regarding the importance of this technology space to the United States. **Please consider showing your support by becoming a member of the Caucus and tuning in to the launch event on Wednesday, February 24th.**

To join the Optics & Photonics Caucus, please email Jo Stiles in Representative Morelle’s office at [jo.stiles@mail.house.gov](mailto:jo.stiles@mail.house.gov). Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Affiliation]

[Address]