



**Testimony of Katherine Shannon**  
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Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the invitation to testify today. I am Katie Shannon, and I am thrilled to be here to talk about ElevateBio and the important work we have planned at our new BaseCamp biomanufacturing facility in Pittsburgh.

At ElevateBio, we are powering the creation of cell and gene therapies, a new class of medicine designed to target the underlying cause of disease. Instead of treating symptoms, cell and gene therapies target the root cause with the potential to transform—or even cure—a wide range of diseases, including cancer, genetic disorders, and autoimmune conditions. These therapies represent a new frontier in medicine, offering hope to patients with conditions once considered untreatable.

Founded in 2017 in Waltham, Massachusetts, ElevateBio is building the future of medicine by combining two essential capabilities: breakthrough technologies and manufacturing expertise. Through this combination, we provide academic and corporate partners with the necessary tools, facilities, and knowledge to develop life-saving treatments more efficiently, helping them reach patients faster. Historically, the failure rate to develop cell and gene therapies is an astounding 90 percent, often due to the lack of resources, expertise and funding required to bring these therapies to patients. ElevateBio was created to change that.

ElevateBio BaseCamp is our biomanufacturing business, where we provide partners with the end-to-end capabilities to create and manufacture their cell and gene therapies. By offering our expertise throughout the development process, we can help de-risk the financial investments required by small, medium and large companies by allowing them to focus their resources on critical research and development activities rather than having to make early investments in the expensive and complicated infrastructure required to manufacture these therapies and cures. Our experts are also called upon to help improve complicated and costly development processes, contributing over time to more affordable patient access to treatments.

Due to the forward thinking and generosity of the Richard King Mellon Foundation in Pittsburgh, we were chosen by the University of Pittsburgh in 2022 to be their partner in revitalizing the Hazelwood Green area through a project called "Pitt BioForge," building a state-of-the-art cell and gene therapy manufacturing facility and providing hundreds of new jobs in Pittsburgh. I, myself, am a western Pennsylvania native and unfortunately, had to leave home to pursue my career in biomedical manufacturing. The investment in the Pitt BioForge project and ElevateBio BaseCamp Pittsburgh has quite literally allowed me to "come home" and be a part of this transformative mission to build a sustained life sciences eco-system in Pittsburgh where medical innovation can grow, thrive and STAY in Pittsburgh rather than relocating to other well-known biotech hubs.

By partnering with the University of Pittsburgh, we are joining forces with one of the nation's leading research institutions, leveraging the city's rich manufacturing history and steering it into a new era of biomedical innovation. Together, we are building a better future, combining our collective expertise to combat some of the world's most challenging diseases through science, biomanufacturing, and a shared commitment to accelerating cell and gene therapy innovation. Our new ElevateBio facility at Pitt BioForge embodies this partnership, advancing our joint mission to change the future of medicine.

Construction on this facility is well underway, and we anticipate we will be fully operational by the first quarter of 2027. With this facility, ElevateBio expects to create at least 170 permanent full-time positions and an additional 900 jobs during construction, supporting local talent and economic growth. Startup of the facility will also catalyze expansion of needed capabilities and supplies within the local service provider eco-system that are needed to support sustained biomanufacturing facility operations, creating countless more jobs and opportunities. These services range from logistics to supplies to specialized cleaning to even the restaurants and retail outlets that we expect will open to meet the needs of a growing workforce.

We are proud that our BaseCamp Pittsburgh facility will serve as a cornerstone for scientific advancement, providing a space where innovation thrives, new technologies are discovered, and transformative medicines are developed for patients. To support our operations, we are also heavily committed to and invested in the development and training of a workforce of the future. At ElevateBio, we know that talent is key to driving a new technology-driven bioeconomy in Pittsburgh and beyond. To accomplish this objective, we are working to create highly skilled jobs and train a new generation of manufacturing workers.

Specifically, we are partnering with the University of Pittsburgh and other regional stakeholders to design and offer workforce development, local trade, and community college outreach programs to help train and develop professionals with varying levels of education. We aim to advance careers through continuous hands-on training and professional development activities in multiple disciplines, providing opportunities for individuals changing careers and young professionals entering the job market. Importantly, we will offer high-paying job opportunities to a broad spectrum of individuals that will

help serve them over the lifetime of their careers, whether at ElevateBio or another company in the bioeconomy in the future.

While our ambition is simple, our mission is complicated, and success not guaranteed. As such, we need the ongoing support of our government partners to weather the current economic challenges faced by the sector through grants for construction and equipment, tax credits and other economic development support programs. The investment in cell and gene therapies today will reap rewards tomorrow for patients as well as the health care system broadly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for being a part of this journey. We look forward to the incredible impact we will achieve together.