

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
& Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
& Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen,

On behalf of the undersigned scientific and engineering societies, industry associations, companies and universities, we write to thank you for providing funding increases for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the Senate version of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act for FY21.

As a coalition we support the overall increase in funding provided for NIST, as well as the prioritization of construction funds. The over 50-year-old facilities in Maryland and Colorado currently have a backlog of \$774.4 million in deferred maintenance. As you work with the House to finalize the appropriations for FY21, we encourage appropriators to support as much funding as possible for the construction account to address these vital needs.

NIST is an agency vital to solving the technical challenges faced by U.S. businesses and academic researchers. The funding for the NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS) program will further advance research projects in key areas, including artificial intelligence, 5G, position navigation and timing (PNT), internet of things (IoT) and NIST measurement science programs more broadly. As you work with the House to finalize the appropriations for FY21, we encourage as much funding as possible for the STRS account to support these laboratory research priorities. Additionally, we would like to thank the committee for including a provision that establishes an Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework in your report.

Thank you again for your leadership and support for NIST. The NIST Coalition looks forward to working with you as the House and Senate finalize the FY21 appropriations bills and encourage you to continue your support increased investment in NIST.

Sincerely,

American Chemical Society (ACS)

American Physical Society (APS)

IBM

Keysight Technologies

Materials Research Society (MRS)

OSA – The Optical Society

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics

University of Colorado Boulder