

September 19, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The leading standards development organizations listed below write to express strong support for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency vital to the competitiveness and future of the U.S. public and private sectors due to its crucial role in supporting the U.S. private sector-led standards system and advancements in fundamental science, metrology, and technical innovation.

We urge you to support NIST's full requested discretionary budget at \$1,498,500,00 within fiscal year 2025 (FY25) appropriations. NIST's request is already a decrease of \$128,785,000 compared to the fiscal year 2024's Annualized Continuing Resolution level, and any further reduction would risk America's public health, safety, and modernization. We implore Congress to recognize the importance of NIST's work in meeting the national security and global competitiveness needs for advanced communications, manufacturing, buildings and construction, artificial intelligence research, technology readiness, and much more, by fully funding the agency.

NIST works with our nation's businesses, universities, research institutes, and standards development organizations to drive American economic growth, job creation, and technological innovation. Companies, academic institutions, laboratories, and other federal agencies rely on NIST programs to provide foundational research and material development for their products, services, and programs. NIST needs to be fully funded to continue its missions of implementing the CHIPS and Science Act, the Federal Information Security Modernization Act, the Energy Independence and Security Act, the U.S. Government National Standards Strategy for Critical and Emerging Technology, and others critical to the U.S.'s safety and security.

NIST supports America's international competitiveness, aiding businesses of all sizes in overcoming technical obstacles by fulfilling a vital function that companies may not have the knowledge or resources to do themselves. For example, NIST's core measurement science programs provide calibrations and standard reference materials for industry broadly, providing a shared basis for commerce and trust. Sectors from oil and gas to aerospace and medicine rely on NIST. Innumerable products and services rely on the technology, measurement, and standards NIST has provided since Congress established the agency in 1901 with support from organizations like the undersigned.

NIST plays a critical role coordinating federal agency activities in voluntary standards. NIST chairs the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy (ICSP) which brings together representatives from 36 federal agencies, and provides a communications conduit between the government's standardization interests and the private sector standardization community. NIST partners with standards development organizations to advocate for U.S. national interests by contributing technical proposals and knowledge in the development of standards. Under the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) of 1995, NIST is assigned responsibility for coordinating federal, state, and local documentary standards and conformity assessment activities with those of the private sector. Vital NIST programs – the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) and National Voluntary Conformity Assessment System Evaluation (NVCASE) Program - provide assurance to U.S. businesses as well as foreign governments of the competence of private sector conformity assessment bodies. This enables confidence in the accurate performance and compliance of materials and products purchased as well as market access.

As part of its mission, NIST's world-class scientists and researchers share their knowledge and expertise with the private sector by engaging and contributing to the development of thousands of voluntary consensus standards. NIST is also critical to maintaining U.S. leadership on analytical testing, building and construction, health care, information technology, manufacturing, and telecommunications as it certifies and provides over 1,300 Standard Reference Materials to ensure accuracy of instrument calibrations and the development of new technologies. Full NIST funding is necessary to carry out these responsibilities.

In closing, we urge your Committees and the full House and Senate to allocate full funding for NIST for FY25.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues as the appropriation process continues.

Sincerely,

ASTM International

American Concrete Institute (ACI)

AMPP: Association for Materials Protection and Performance

American Nuclear Society (ANS)

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)

American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

American Water Works Association (AWWA)

American Wood Council (AWC)

ATIS

Compressed Gas Association (CGA)

Green Building Initiative (GBI)

IEEE-USA

Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)

International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

International Code Council (ICC)

International Society of Automation (ISA)

IPC

National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)

National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA)

NSF

Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA)

SAE International

Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

UL Standards & Engagement