Dear Chairwoman Shaheen, Ranking Member Moran, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Cartwright:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write in support of the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) and several of its critical missions.

While fully aware of the tight constraints of the budget agreement, we urge you to provide as much funding as possible to uphold NIST’s mission: to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

In concrete terms, this entails funding levels consistent with those authorized in the CHIPS and Science Act:

- **At least $1.047 billion in funding for NIST’s Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS) programs** to further advance research projects in key areas, including quantum science and technology, artificial intelligence & Internet of things (IoT).
- **At least $420 million for NIST’s Construction of Research Facilities account** to urgently reduce the nearly $900 million infrastructure state-of-good-repair backlog, which impacts NIST’s ability to provide critical services to industry.

NIST works with our nation’s businesses and universities to drive American economic growth and job creation. Companies, academic institutions, and other federal agencies rely on STRS programs to provide foundational research and material development for their products and programs. NIST supports America’s global competitiveness by aiding businesses to overcome technical obstacles – fulfilling a vital function that companies cannot do themselves. NIST’s core measurement science programs, for example, provide calibrations and standards for industry broadly—from oil and gas to aerospace and medicine.

The agency also plays an essential role in emerging industries, such as quantum technology and artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and digital identity that require foundational measurements to enable U.S. dominance. The National Quantum Initiative Act, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in 2018, includes NIST as one of three key agencies that will help ensure the U.S. remains a global leader in quantum. The bill also authorizes the Quantum Economic Development Consortium
(QED-C), a jointly funded government and private sector collaboration designed to tackle some of the challenges of moving quantum technologies from the lab to market.

NIST plays an especially instrumental role in the field of AI. This is exemplified in the recent Executive Order 14110 on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence, which aims to build U.S. capacity to evaluate and mitigate the risks of AI systems and promoting an innovative, competitive AI ecosystem. The EO mandates NIST to develop meaningful evaluation guidelines, testing environments, and information resources to help organizations develop, deploy, and use AI technologies that are safe and secure, and that enhance AI trustworthiness. It is therefore more urgent than ever that NIST receives proper funding to fulfill its growing responsibilities.

Lastly, modern, functional facilities are required for NIST to remain the world-leader in measurement science. NIST currently has a backlog of over $900 million in deferred maintenance at their 50+ year-old laboratories in Maryland and Colorado. Recurring failures of these utility systems in recent years have resulted in lost work and costly damage. A study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recommends more than tripling the agency’s current construction and maintenance budget annually for at least 12 years. The coalition funding request for FY25 is consistent with the minimum funding recommended by the report.

We believe the critical role NIST plays in supporting advancements in science and technology is worth prioritizing strong investments, even in these tough budgetary times. For FY25 appropriations, we urge increased investment in NIST’s core laboratory research programs in the STRS account at a minimum of $1.047 billion. Additionally, we urge Congress to appropriate $420 million for NIST facilities.

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

Sincerely,

3D Epitaxial Technologies, LLC
AIM Photonics
Alliance for Trust in AI
American Chemical Society
APS
Atom Computing Inc.
Better Identity Coalition
Bluefors Cryocooler Technologies Inc.
CJW Quantum Consulting, LLC
ColdQuanta, Inc. dba Infleqtion
Compu Dynamics, LLC
Computing Research Association
CREOL, The College of Optics and Photonics at the University of Central Florida
Elevate Quantum
Florida Photonics Cluster
George Mason University
Global Quantum Intelligence, LLC
Great Lakes Crystal Technologies, Inc
HKA Marketing Communications
HRL Laboratories, LLC
IBM
Keysight Technologies
Leonardo DRS
M-7 Technologies
Materials Research Society
Maybell Quantum
Menlo Systems Inc.
Microsoft
Montana Instruments
MPW
Northwest Engineering Solutions LLC
Novum Industria LLC
Optica, Advancing Optics and Photonics Worldwide
PsiQuantum, Corp.
Qrypt
Quantinuum
Quantum Microwave Components LLC
Quantum Xchange
Qunnect, Inc
Rigetti Computing, Inc.
Safe Quantum Inc.
SAP America

SEEQC
SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics
StratConGlobal
Swain Techs
The Alliance for Digital Innovation
The Alliance for Digital Innovation

The University of Texas at Dallas
Thorlabs Inc.
TOPTICA-USA
University of Colorado Boulder
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Zyvex Labs