



June 19, 2018

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
394 Ford House Office Building | 2nd and D Streets SW
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Johnson:

On behalf of the Materials Research Society (MRS) – an organization of over 14,000 scientists and technologists that support sustained and robust federal investment in scientific research - we write to provide comments on draft legislation that seeks to establish a government initiative to expand research efforts in the quantum space.

According to the latest version of the National Quantum Initiative legislation MRS was asked to review, there is a provision that would eliminate the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office (NNCO), a body within OSTP that provides a critical role in the study of nano science.

Importantly, nano science bridges across applications, whereas quantum science is a specific application of nano science. Replacing the NNCO with a quantum specific program will quell the advances currently being made in topics ranging from medicine, structural materials, optics and semiconductors, to name but a few. In the recent past, the NNCO has also had a critical role - through monthly meetings - that has coordinated the activities across federal agencies to eliminate overlap and identify new critical, high-impact areas for research and development of nanotechnologies.

I urge the Committee to make the necessary changes in the draft to protect this critical office, so that it may continue its work and also continue to bring visibility of the advances in nanotechnology to the public through its crosscutting outreach and education efforts. If you have any questions about our thoughts on this matter, please contact Damon Dozier, MRS Director of Government Affairs, at 202.721.0077 or dozier@mrs.org.

Sincerely,

Sean J. Hearne
President, Materials Research Society