

February 6, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
House of Representatives  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Senate  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
United States House of Representatives  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Senate  
Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cole, Chairwoman Collins, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chairwoman Murray:

In response to the FY26 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act signed into law this month, the NIST Coalition expresses our thanks for your support in increasing the budget for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. We commend that the final bill provides a topline of \$1.184 billion for NIST, representing a 2.3% increase from FY25, and are especially grateful for the 45.9% increase to \$128 million for the Construction of Research Facilities account. This investment is extremely vital considering the agency's deferred maintenance backlog exceeding \$1.1 billion.

In 2025, NIST was directed to intensify research efforts in industries of the future and to enhance U.S. standards leadership. Executive Orders 14306 and 14144, as well as the establishment of Center for AI Standards and Innovation, particularly expanded NIST's workload in AI-related cybersecurity last year. A sustained strong budget will remain essential to ensure NIST can meet these additional expectations while adapting to a significant reduction in force.

We acknowledge the difficult fiscal environment facing Congress and appreciate this funding level as an encouraging step in the right direction. These investments directly enable NIST's scientists and researchers to carry out the agency'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 quality of life.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to working with you on the appropriations process for 2027.

Sincerely,

The NIST Coalition