

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman

U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member

U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen:

We write to request that the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies provide the maximum possible increase in funding for FY2020 from FY2019 levels for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

We thank the Committee for their continued commitment to increased funding for science programs in the FY2019 appropriations package. Ongoing federal initiatives in research and development are already responsible for billions of dollars in economic output and tens of thousands of jobs in our home states of Colorado and Michigan.

Investments through NSF have provided grants to individual researchers across the country that have resulted in such innovations as the algorithm behind the Google search engine, the glass on the face of the iPhone, and advancements in cancer research. Through NSF programs like I-Corps, which we successfully authorized in the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, these investments are leveraged into the commercial sector and attract significant private capital to help grow the economy. NSF also supports significant research and development centers throughout the country, including the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado.

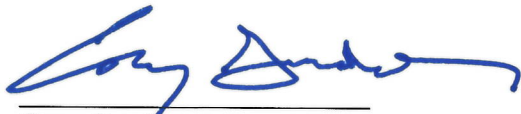
As the nation's premier standards and measurement agency, NIST coordinates with industry using a non-regulatory approach to develop standards and best practices on issues as wide-ranging as quantum computing and cybersecurity to pharmaceuticals and telecommunications. NIST also oversees the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program, which promotes American manufacturing and provides significant value to the United States manufacturing community—for example, MEP estimates that every \$1 in federal investment generates an additional \$17 in manufacturing sales growth.

While the private sector invests billions annually in research and development, many in industry have indicated an inability to provide significantly more capital, leaving their investments stranded without adequate federal investment. An increase from FY2019 levels is appropriate considering historical appropriations increases.

The United States is facing fierce international competition: China invests more than \$335 billion annually on research and development initiatives, making them the second largest investor in the world and putting them on track to eclipse U.S. investments soon. Without a substantial increase in research and development appropriations, the United States risks losing its role as the global leader in innovation. We must keep America first.

If you or your staffs have questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact our staff. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory Gardner", written over a horizontal line.

Cory Gardner
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary C. Peters", written over a horizontal line.

Gary C. Peters
U.S. Senator