

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen:

The undersigned organizations are deeply concerned about the President's FY2021 Budget request for the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST). If enacted, funding for NIST's Physical Infrastructure and Resilience activities would be cut by more than 30%. These cuts would greatly hinder the research being done to improve building performance and occupant safety. Additionally, it would result in the complete elimination of the Disaster Resilience Research Grants Program, the Fire Research Grants Program, and the Community Resilience Center of Excellence.

NIST's work in these areas is crucial to its partnerships with the private sector to improve building performance, reduce costs, drive innovation, and strengthen our nation's resiliency. The Physical Infrastructure program at NIST works to modernize building systems by improving operations and taking steps to improve the technology behind net-zero facilities. Programs that assist with the development of the next generation of refrigerants, building automation and control, and heat pump efficiency serve as a model of NIST's ability to collaborate with other government agencies and industry stakeholders to develop technology that assist American manufacturers and save consumers money while reducing impacts to the environment.

This research is essential to determining cost effective solutions to make the built environment more resilient through the advancement of science-based standards and codes for buildings that make communities less susceptible to natural disasters. The funding reduction to the Physical Infrastructure and Resilience program would severely inhibit American innovation and diminish occupant safety, productivity, and health.

We respectfully urge you and your colleagues to oppose any cuts in funding for the Physical Infrastructure and Resilience program at NIST including the elimination of projects that support science and technology for better performing buildings. We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns with you and encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

AEC Science & Technology, LLC

Alliance to Save Energy

American Chemistry Council (ACC)

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)

APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"

ASHRAE

Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)

EPDM Roofing Association

International Code Council (ICC)

National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)

National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)

Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA)

The Stella Group, Ltd.

U.S. Green Building Council

CC: The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations