

April 3, 2019

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 a provision in the President's FY2020 Budget request for the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST). As described in the Congressional Justification for this request, funding would be eliminated for "work on developing and deploying advances in science and technology to markedly improve building energy efficiency and occupant safety in the U.S." The justification further explains that this budget reduction of \$16.41 million would include "elimination of work at the Net-zero energy, high-performance building facility, as well as embedded intelligence in building control and operation. NIST will also eliminate funding for the Disaster Resilience Research Grants Program and the Fire Research Grants Program."

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 low GHG 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. The 26.7% overall funding reduction to the Physical Infrastructure and Resilience program would severely inhibit American innovation and diminish occupant safety, productivity, and health.

In 2017 and 2018, hurricanes and wildfires devastated communities across the U.S. causing hundreds of billions of dollars in damages. In response, Congress has prioritized building a stronger and more resilient America by passing legislation that would provide assistance to rebuilding efforts and modernize disaster response. The President's FY2020 budget proposal would also eliminate NIST's Disaster Resilience Research Grants Program and the Fire Research Grants Program. 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.

We urge that you and your colleagues oppose any cuts to 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,

APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"

American Supply Association (ASA)

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

Alliance to Save Energy

ASHRAE

AEC Science & Technology, LLC

Daikin US Corporation

E4TheFuture

Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)

International Code Council (ICC)

National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)

National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)

Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA)

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