

FY 2007 House Report

House Report 109-520 - SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FISCAL YEAR 2007

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Committee recommendation includes \$4,019,167,000 in direct discretionary appropriations for the Science and Technology programs of the Department of Commerce, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which is \$684,842,000 below the current year, and \$242,785,000 below the request.

TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The recommendation includes \$2,000,000 for necessary expenses of the Under Secretary for Technology Policy, which is \$515,000 above the request and \$3,923,000 below the current year level.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

The recommendation includes \$627,000,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for fiscal year 2007, which is \$118,037,000 below the current year and \$45,668,000 above the request.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

The Committee recommendation includes \$467,002,000 for NIST's scientific and technical core programs, which is \$72,240,000 above the current year and the same as the request.

The Committee recommendation includes \$395,002,000 to support the full base operating costs for core NIST programs, including the continuation of a critical infrastructure program at the fiscal year 2006 level. In addition, the Committee recommendation includes new investments of \$72,000,000 to support the American Competitiveness Initiative, focusing on physical science research and standards development that will foster innovation. Specifically, funding is recommended for the following activities: (1) enhancing NIST's national research facilities (+\$30,000,000), including support for the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology and the Center for Neutron Research; (2) furthering the work of NIST's

laboratories and technical programs (+\$28,000,000), including support for developing a robust hydrogen economy to reduce the Nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy, creating manufacturing innovation through supply chain integration, building the infrastructure for innovation through quantum information science developments, furthering structural safety from hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes, and developing next generation materials; and (3) opening markets for American workers and exporters through development of international standards and innovation (+\$14,000,000), including support for developments in measurement science and enhancements in bioimaging, cybersecurity, and biometric identification technologies.

The Committee continues to support efforts to ensure that United States business interests are represented in international standards negotiations, and also expects that NIST will collaborate with the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the Department of State on innovative ways to reduce trade barriers to United States exports by ensuring that United States standards are adopted in international negotiations.

The Committee recommends that NIST continue to work with its Federal partners to develop, implement, and publish the results of a Project 25 conformity assessment program for first responder communications equipment.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Committee recommendation includes \$92,000,000, which is \$91,624,000 below the current year and \$45,668,000 above the request, and is provided solely for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP) Program. The Committee adopts the President's request to terminate funding for the Advanced Technology Program.

MEP is a collaborative partnership program that provides United States manufacturers with access to technologies, resources, and expertise through a network of manufacturing extension centers. Federal support for the MEP program, combined with State and private sector funding, is intended to translate into more jobs, more tax revenue, more exports, and a more secure supply source of consumer and defense goods. Because the Committee recognizes the value of the continuation of these valuable partnerships, the recommendation doubles the Administration's request for the MEP program.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Committee recommendation includes \$67,998,000 for construction and major renovations of NIST campuses at Boulder, CO, and Gaithersburg, MD, and at other facilities. This account supports the construction, maintenance, and repair of NIST facilities to meet the Nation's measurement and research needs.

The recommendation fully supports the requested program increases of \$32,100,000 in support of the American Competitiveness Initiative, including funds for the following: \$10,100,000 for renovations of Boulder facilities; \$10,000,000 for safety, capacity, maintenance and major repairs; and \$12,000,000 for the NIST Center for Neutron Research.

The Committee directs NIST to submit quarterly reports to the Committee on the progress of all construction projects during fiscal year 2007.

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