



UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI  
MARYLAND

December 3, 2008

Dr. Patrick Gallagher, Deputy Director  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
100 Bureau Drive Stop 1000  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-1000

Dear Dr. Gallagher & Friends:

Greetings to all the federal employees and their guests here today on the occasion of the 2008 NIST Annual Awards Ceremony. Since 1901, NIST has been true to its mandate *to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology...to... enhance economic security and improve our quality of life*. I have seen first-hand both your hard work and the fruits of your labor in the promotion of excellence, conducting research and the development of innovative technologies. Tell me, where would WalMart be without NIST?

Ladies and gentlemen, you are part of the most productive and efficient civil and military service in the world. I know how hard you work and how often your work is taken for granted. I want you to know that you are appreciated. Your dedicated service to the American public has kept this country on top and ahead of the curve. You work hard for us, and I will always work hard for you.

Know that I am on your side. Earlier this year, in the United States Senate, I successfully amended the federal procurement process to permanently level the playing field for federal employees. This provision eliminates unfair contracting out procedures and discriminatory practices that favor private contractors. Of particular priority for me was ending the unfair advantages contractors had in public-private competitions by offering inferior health care and retirement benefits.

I am very pleased to hear that today 118 NIST staff members, who have made exceptional contributions in support of this agency's mission, will be recognized for your distinguished service to our country. Enjoy the limelight you so richly deserve. Please accept my sincere congratulations for these well-deserved awards. Thank you for all you do every day to make America safer, stronger and smarter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara A. Mikulski".

Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator