

April 21, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Rogers, and Ranking Member Meng:

We write to urge you to prioritize funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), including full resourcing of the agency's initiatives to advance responsible innovation of artificial intelligence (AI) systems in the upcoming fiscal year.

Fully funding NIST's work to support AI innovation, interpretability, testing, security, and evaluation is critically important to maintaining the United States' edge in this fast-developing technology. Last year, Congress appropriated \$1.85 billion for NIST, including \$55 million for NIST's ongoing AI research and measurement science efforts, with \$10 million allocated to the Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI).<sup>1</sup> As AI plays an increasingly central role in the U.S. economy and the stakes of technological leadership rise globally, it is imperative that Congress not only maintain these funding levels but increase them, providing the resources necessary for NIST and CAISI to ultimately support American innovation and competitiveness through the AI Action Plan and other Administration priorities.

For over a century, NIST has served as a trusted and impartial leader in contributing to the development of technical standards and promoting innovation across a range of American industries. Its world-renowned expertise in measurement science and cutting-edge technology make it well-suited to lead the federal government's efforts to address the complex challenges presented by AI systems.

---

<sup>1</sup>Doubleday, Justin. [Lawmakers Boost Funding for NIST](#). Federal News Network. January 5, 2026.

By investing in NIST's unique scientific expertise to identify techniques to measure the capabilities, limitations, and potential risks posed by AI systems, we can build public trust in AI to foster continued innovation while safeguarding the public from harm. The widespread adoption of the NIST AI Risk Management Framework (AI RMF) further demonstrates the agency's ability to provide foundational tools that enable organizations to manage AI-related risks. NIST is uniquely qualified to contribute to the development of well-defined technical standards, test methods, and objective evaluation techniques, which are prerequisites for an effective federal AI governance framework, especially as AI systems rapidly increase in scale and complexity.

As cutting-edge AI systems rapidly evolve, ensuring NIST has the resources it needs to drive responsible AI innovation is essential to maintain America's technological leadership and safeguard our future.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Americans for Responsible Innovation  
Agentic Futures Initiative  
AI Commons  
Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP)  
Center for AI Safety Action Fund  
Carnegie Mellon University  
EluetherAI  
FAR.AI  
ForHumanity  
Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Technology, Duquesne University  
Imbue  
Inclusive Abundance Action  
Institute for Progress (IFP)  
Leela AI  
New America's Open Technology Institute  
Public Knowledge  
The AI Policy Network  
The Alliance for Digital Innovation  
The Alliance for Secure AI  
The Future Society  
Third Way  
Transformative Futures Institute

Trustible  
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)  
UC Berkeley  
Workday