

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Subcommittee Chairman Thomas Massie (R-Ky.)
Hearing on Examining the Effectiveness of NIST Laboratories**

Chairman Massie: Good afternoon, I'd like to welcome everyone to today's hearing, which is being held to examine the effectiveness of the laboratory programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This hearing will help inform the Committee as it considers reauthorization of NIST and its laboratories later this year.

Measurement science conducted at NIST laboratories contributes to industrial competitiveness by buttressing the technical infrastructure for advancements in nanotechnology, global positioning systems, materials sciences, cybersecurity, health information technology, and a variety of other fields. Research conducted at NIST laboratories has been lauded by independent outside review panels as being among the best in the world. Indeed, NIST researchers have been awarded four Nobel prizes in Physics in the last 15 years.

As the Committee considers reauthorization of NIST, it is important for Committee Members to know whether the research conducted at NIST laboratories is effective. It is also important to understand how NIST prioritizes and coordinates research projects, and how NIST balances its portfolio of research between short-term, lower-risk, lower-reward projects and long-term, higher-risk, higher reward projects.

The National Academies have recently conducted assessments of three NIST laboratories and have conducted a cross-cutting review of manufacturing-related programs at NIST. Dr. Corotis will be summarizing the findings of these recent reviews in his testimony today. While the reviews are mostly positive, they have also identified areas for improvements. The Subcommittee looks forward to exploring the Academies' recommendations this afternoon.

America is currently more than \$16 trillion in debt and is running massive deficits on an annual basis. Congress's job is to set priorities. One of the best things we as policy makers can do to improve our economic competitiveness is to get our fiscal house in order. Industry leaders are currently sitting on large cash reserves. They will be reticent to invest that money here in America until they see that the country is on a sustainable budget path.

Just as it is important for the country to prioritize spending decisions, it is also important for our research agencies to do so. We look forward to understanding how NIST can prioritize project decisions in a fiscally responsible manner while contributing to US innovation and competitiveness. I'd like to extend my appreciation to each of our witnesses for taking the time and effort to appear before us today. We look forward to your testimony.