

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



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Statement of Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairwoman Barbara Comstock (R-Va.)
*An Overview of the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Proposals for the National Science Foundation and
National Institute of Standards and Technology for Fiscal Year 2016*

Chairwoman Comstock: I would first like to thank our witnesses for appearing today to discuss these budget requests: Dr. France Córdova, Director of the NSF, Dr. David Arvizu, Chairman of the National Science Board, and Dr. Willie May, Acting Director of NIST, who I want to acknowledge has been nominated by the President for the position of Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

The fiscal year 2016 budget request for NSF totals \$7.72 billion, an increase of \$379.34 million, 5.2 percent over the fiscal year 2015 enacted level.

NSF is the primary source of federal funding for non-medical basic research. Basic research is about good jobs and a secure future. We want to be strong advocates for federal support of basic research that advances science in the national interest.

But in this budget environment, just maintaining the current level of basic research support is a big challenge. We have a constitutional obligation and a responsibility to ensure every dollar allocated for scientific research is spent as effectively and efficiently as possible. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses, Dr. Cordova and Dr. Arvizu, on how NSF plans to prioritize and manage funding in fiscal year 2016.

The fiscal year 2016 budget request for NIST totals \$1.12 billion, an increase of \$255.8 million or almost 30 percent from the fiscal year 2015 enacted level.

This Committee has a long, bipartisan record of support for NIST and its contributions to research and development. Just last year the House passed a bipartisan reauthorization of the Institute. But a 30 percent increase will be difficult to achieve and would require significant changes in other areas. The requested increases would be devoted in large part to bolster advanced manufacturing initiatives at NIST, \$150 million dollars is requested for the Network for Manufacturing Innovation, which I believe is set in law at \$5 million annually.

We are here today to learn more about the justification for this request, and I am appreciative of the opportunity to learn more about how fiscal year 2016 funds would be prioritized by NIST. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses and learning how priorities and budgets are set by both organizations.

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