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Dear Chairman Lucas, Ranking Member Lofgren, Chairman Collins, and Ranking Member Stevens:

It is my pleasure and honor to write a letter in support of the *Expanding Partnerships for Innovation and Competitiveness Act*, a bill to establish a Foundation for Standards and Metrology within the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). As a former employee and Deputy Director of the Physical Measurement Laboratory at the NIST, I understand how this generous and thoughtful act will significantly strengthen and promote interactions between academia, industry, and government agencies and thereby enable the NIST to more fully achieve its objectives, including more rapid technology transfer to the private sector.

Funding constraints and continuing resolutions create missed opportunities for public-private collaboration in critical and emerging technology areas, delayed standards development, staffing challenges, and reduced research capacity. The proposed bill will clearly provide additional flexibility to the NIST to support activities that are currently limited or missed due to financial constraints. In addition, the foundation will significantly enhance the experience of NIST associates and other nonemployees of the NIST who conduct research, use facilities or otherwise volunteer or engage in an authorized activity with NIST personnel or at a NIST facility. This includes retired employees who continue to provide expertise back to the NIST. Many of these guest researchers go on to be leaders in their fields and act as unofficial ambassadors of the numerous benefits of the NIST, providing a positive image of the NIST and United States Government.

In addition to supporting ongoing authorized activities of the NIST, the foundation will help to convene industry, non-profit and philanthropic organizations, and institutions of higher education, including HBCUs and minority serving institutions with NIST researchers to advance shared goals. This includes, supporting education and training of new researchers in emerging technologies through awards, grants, and fellowships.

In conclusion, I strongly advocate for the passage of this generous and thoughtful bill.

Sincerely,



Carl J. Williams

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