

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY HEARING

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Opening Statement

Alan B. Mollohan, Chairman

Good morning. Welcome. This hearing is called to order.

Today we will explore the fiscal year 2011 budget request for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST's critical role in measurement science and standards fosters innovation and encourages economic growth. The agency is a world leader in the physical sciences and technology.

The total NIST request is \$918.9 million, an increase of \$62.3 million over the fiscal year 2010 enacted level of \$856.6 million, or just over 7 percent.

We will also explore NIST's progress in awarding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, including specific details on how the funds are being utilized and their importance in supporting NIST's mission while addressing National priorities. NIST received \$580 million in ARRA funding, including \$220 million for research, competitive grants, additional research fellowships, and advanced research and measurement equipment and supplies; \$180 million to address NIST's backlog of maintenance and renovation needs and for construction of new facilities and laboratories; and \$180,000,000 for the relatively new and well-received competitive construction grant program for research science buildings.

I'd like to acknowledge that this is Dr. Gallagher's first time testifying before this subcommittee, I understand that you have had some practice with authorizing committees, however, , so this isn't exactly new territory for you. Welcome; we look forward to your testimony.

Thank you all for coming.

Following the opening statement of Ranking Member Wolf, we will ask Dr. Gallagher to provide a brief summary of his written testimony, which will be included in the hearing record, and then we will go to questions from subcommittee members.