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The American Society
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May 29, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Collins and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

Founded in 1880 as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME is a not-for-profit professional organization of over 72,000 members across the U.S. dedicated to enabling collaboration, knowledge sharing, and skill development across all engineering disciplines, while promoting the vital role of the engineer in society. ASME codes and standards, publications, conferences, continuing education, and professional development programs provide a foundation for advancing technical knowledge and a safer world.

As you work with the President through the FY 2026 appropriations process to implement a ‘Golden Age of American Innovation’, we urge you to prioritize critical investments that produce enormous returns for the American people. These include investments in the Department of Defense (DOD) Science and Technology programs, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of Research & Development, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Science and engineering research and workforce development investments are essential to building and sustaining a successful American innovation ecosystem. Federal investments in basic research are also vital to our nation’s science, technology, and manufacturing sectors. The products and applications that have been created because of these research dollars have spurred tremendous economic expansion and provided a training ground for the future generation of scientists and engineers critical to advanced industry.

For decades, America has been the undisputed global leader in science, engineering, and innovation. But as you know, the global landscape is increasingly competitive. While U.S.

federal investments in fundamental research have been relatively flat for over a decade, our international counterparts have increased their investments in R&D, in many cases dramatically.

To better compete with the rest of the world and address our domestic STEM workforce development shortages, we must invest in American innovation, which is built on the complex relationship between fundamental research and advanced industrial technology development.

There is no better way to protect American interests in technological leadership than to support federal funding of scientific research. Specifically, we believe new and renewed investments should be made in FY 2026 to support the physical science and engineering research agencies so critical to many of the United States' currently identified emerging technology challenge areas, including quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing.

The ASME community looks forward to working with you and the administration to expand U.S. leadership in science and engineering. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our community if we can be of assistance to you in communicating the critical importance of expanding the STEM workforce and U.S. technological dominance in critical and emerging technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Costabile".

Thomas Costabile, P.E., FASME
Executive Director/CEO