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February 10, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
United States House of Representatives
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cole, Chairwoman Collins, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice
Chairwoman Murray:

On behalf of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and our more than 70,000 U.S. members across industry, academia, and government, we extend our sincere appreciation for your leadership in advancing full year Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations and for your continued efforts to safeguard the nation's scientific and engineering enterprise. Your support for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy's Office of Science (DOESC), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is essential to sustaining U.S. leadership in technological innovation and economic competitiveness.

As you know, the United States' strength in critical and emerging technology areas—from high performance computing and advanced manufacturing to clean energy systems—rests on the foundation of federal research programs that catalyze discovery and accelerate the translation of scientific breakthroughs into real world applications. Mechanical engineering is central to these advances, enabling progress in energy systems, advanced materials, manufacturing technologies, robotics, aerospace systems, and infrastructure resilience. Federal investment has repeatedly proven decisive: programs across NSF, DOE, NIST, and NASA supply the research capabilities, national facilities, and STEM workforce development needed to maintain U.S. scientific leadership.

We are particularly grateful that the FY26 appropriations sustained, and in some cases strengthened, investments in ASME priority technology domains. Continued support for nuclear energy and fusion energy research is especially critical. These programs not

only advance next generation clean energy systems but also drive innovations in thermal sciences, high temperature materials, reactor engineering, plasma-material interactions, and advanced simulation tools. They also underpin the engineering expertise essential to deploying future commercial nuclear and fusion technologies safely, efficiently, and at scale.

We also appreciate Congress's commitment to advanced manufacturing, including research in materials, additive manufacturing, intelligent systems, and manufacturing process innovation. These investments fuel U.S. industrial competitiveness, bolster supply chain resilience, and enable the mechanical engineering breakthroughs required for new energy systems, aerospace platforms, mobility technologies, and national security applications.

At the same time, core federal support for fundamental mechanical engineering research remains indispensable. This foundational work—from fluid dynamics and heat transfer to design, controls, and materials—supplies the knowledge base upon which every emerging technology ultimately depends. FY26 funding decisions help ensure that the next generation of mechanical engineers is prepared to design, deploy, and safeguard the critical technologies shaping our future.

Looking ahead, we strongly encourage continued attention to the engineering talent pipeline. Programs such as NSF and DOE traineeships, graduate research fellowships, and early career awards play an essential role in cultivating U.S. engineering leadership. Expanding these opportunities will strengthen national competitiveness and ensure a robust STEM workforce capable of advancing nuclear, fusion, manufacturing, and related technology priorities.

Thank you once again for your commitment to protecting federal investments in scientific and engineering research. ASME stands firmly with you in supporting these essential programs, and we remain ready to assist you in any way that may be helpful. Please do not hesitate to call on us as a resource as you continue your important work.

Sincerely,

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas Corliss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "T" and "C".

P.E., FASME
Executive Director / CEO