

**Senate Report 109-280 - DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE,
SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2007**

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2006	\$5,923,000
Budget estimate, 2007	1,485,000
House allowance	2,000,000
Committee recommendation	2,500,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$2,500,000. The recommendation is \$3,423,000 below the fiscal year 2006 funding level and \$1,015,000 above the budget request.

The Committee is concerned that the drastic reduction in funding being requested for this office for fiscal year 2007 will render the Technology Administration [TA] ineffective in carrying out its functions. The additional funding being provided will allow TA to focus on policy objectives related to the technological competitiveness of the Nation in the face of increasingly aggressive foreign competition.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2006	\$752,037,000
Budget estimate, 2007	581,332,000
House allowance	627,000,000
Committee recommendation	764,000,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$764,000,000. The recommendation is \$11,963,000 above the fiscal year 2006 enacted level and \$182,668,000 above the budget request.

The recommendation provides that up to \$9,450,000 may be transferred from the Scientific and Technical Research and Services account to the Working Capital Fund, which the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] uses to purchase equipment for its laboratories.

A description of each NIST account and the corresponding Committee recommendation follows in the subsequent three headings.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

Appropriations, 2006	\$394,762,000
Budget estimate, 2007	467,002,000
House allowance	467,002,000
Committee recommendation	467,002,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$467,002,000. The recommendation is \$72,240,000 above the fiscal year 2006 enacted level and the same as the budget request.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table with specific increases described:

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES, DIRECT OBLIGATIONS
[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Electronics and Electrical Engineering	50,819
Manufacturing Engineering	24,481
Chemical Science and Technology	49,726
Physics	60,118
Materials Science and Engineering	38,961
Building and Fire Research	24,438
Computer Science and Applied Mathematics	74,786
Standards and Technology Services	18,501
National Quality Program	7,575
Research Support Activities	46,809
National Research Facilities	67,288
Total Direct Obligations, STRS	463,502

Within funds provided for Scientific and Technical Research and Services [STRS], \$16,890,000 is provided for Innovations in Measurement Science, \$10,937,000 is provided for the postdoctoral fellowship program, \$6,791,000 is provided for computer support and \$12,191,000 is provided for business systems.

Finally, additional funds of \$9,450,000 are available for transfer to the working capital fund for equipment and other purposes related to the STRS account.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Appropriations, 2006	\$183,624,000
Budget estimate, 2007	46,332,000
House allowance	92,000,000
Committee recommendation	106,000,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$106,000,000. The recommendation is \$77,624,000 below the fiscal year 2006 enacted level and \$59,668,000 above the budget request.

Hollings Manufacturing Extension Programs [MEP]- The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$106,000,000 to fund MEP centers. MEP supports a network of locally run centers that provide technical advice and consultative services to small manufacturing companies in all 50 States and Puerto Rico. Many of these firms lack the technical knowledge and experience to implement cutting edge technologies and cost saving processes, which places them at risk from foreign competition. Since its inception, MEP has consistently been the program that small manufacturers could look to for assistance. Whether it is assisting with quality standards, or providing strategic planning, MEP has delivered the services needed by small manufacturers.

Based on a sampling of clients surveyed in fiscal year 2005, MEP clients indicated that the assistance they received resulted in increased sales of \$1,500,000,000; retained sales of \$4,530,000,000; cost savings of \$721,000,000; and the creation and retention of 43,624 jobs. These economic impacts justify the recommended funding level for the MEP.

The Committee is concerned with how increased energy costs have adversely affected the efficiency of small and medium manufacturers. Therefore, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership and its clients shall work with the National Academies of Sciences to study how small and medium manufacturers can overcome high energy costs through better efficiencies and innovation.

Advanced Technology Program [ATP]- The Committee will allow for the phase out of activities for ATP. No funds are provided in fiscal year 2007 for ATP, and the Committee believes that sufficient funds were provided as part of fiscal year 2006 under this title to cover all necessary close out costs associated with ATP.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2006	\$173,651,000
Budget estimate, 2007	67,998,000
House allowance	67,998,000
Committee recommendation	190,998,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$190,998,000. The recommendation is \$17,347,000 above the fiscal year 2006 enacted level and \$123,000,000 above the budget request.

The recommendation funds the highest priority safety, capacity, maintenance, and repair projects at NIST. Of the amounts provided:

--\$3,800,000 is for the design and renovation of Building 4;

--\$6,300,000 is for Phase I of designs for Boulder Renovations;

--\$12,000,000 for design and construction for a new guide hall facility;

--\$45,898,000 is provided for ongoing safety, capacity, maintenance, and

--Major repair [SCMMR] projects at the Gaithersburg and Boulder facilities.

The Committee directs NIST to provide quarterly reports on the status of all construction projects, and to provide an accounting of projects obligated in fiscal year 2007 against the SCMMR account when the fiscal year 2008 budget is submitted to the Committee.