

**Opening Statement**  
**Ranking Member Frederica Wilson**  
Subcommittee on Research

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

*An Overview of the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Proposal at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)*

April 18, 2013

Thank you, Chairman Massie, for holding this morning's hearing to examine the fiscal year 2014 budget request for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. I'd also like to thank Dr. Gallagher for testifying today and for his leadership at NIST. It's good to see you again.

NIST is an economic engine for this nation.

For more than 100 years, the institute's broad and deep technical expertise has advanced measurement science, standards, and technological innovation— strengthening our manufacturing sector and boosting innovation.

In this time of painfully high unemployment, *we need NIST's expertise more than ever.*

In this time in which developing nations are taking the lead *not only* in assembling products *but also* in inventing products, *we need strategic investments in research, development, and education.*

I am pleased that the President's budget recognizes the importance of NIST and gives the agency a prominent role in the Administration's efforts to revitalize American manufacturing.

The Administration's budget includes a number of initiatives that can strengthen and reinforce the competitive position of the United States. For instance, the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia program will create public-private partnerships to address technical barriers that are stopping the growth of advanced manufacturing here at home. It simply makes sense to leverage federal resources to bring companies together to solve common challenges. It boosts innovation and creates jobs.

The President's proposal also advances emerging fields such as biomanufacturing and nanomanufacturing. This research will provide a foundation for new and existing companies to flourish—producing high-quality, high-paying jobs that will remain with us over the long-haul.

Whether we like it or not, the truth is, that most of our competitors are putting significant and targeted resources towards helping businesses — small and large — accelerate the commercialization of innovative technologies. I don't think we can afford to just stand by and watch those companies setup shop somewhere else. I don't think we can afford to just watch as those technologies and jobs take hold somewhere else. We need to support the Administration's proposal for a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation.

This proposal is intended to help bridge the gap from research and development to commercialization through proof-of-concept activities and direct collaboration with industry. It is also intended to build up the skills of our workforce—preparing students for the manufacturing

jobs of the future. While some questions remain about these manufacturing institutes, I believe the concept has merit and I am looking forward to learning more about it today.

I'm also interested in learning more about how the current budget request will advance NIST's efforts to make our communities more resilient to natural disasters. Born and raised in South Florida, I have seen my fair share of the devastation of severe weather. While we cannot stop hurricanes, tornadoes, or earthquakes from happening, we can and must do all that we can to make sure that our communities have the capacity and the tools they need to respond and recover from these events.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for holding this hearing and I look forward to working with you and our colleagues to ensure that NIST has the resources it needs to fulfill its crucial role: promoting innovation, increasing our competitiveness, and enhancing our security.