

The Honorable YOUR SENATOR'S NAME

U.S. Senate

XXX Address from Website

Washington , DC XXXXX

Dear Senator XXXXXXXXXX:

Attached for your consideration is a FY 2018 appropriations programmatic funding request for \$7.5 million for the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) Baldrige Performance Excellence Program within the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill. This program was authorized by The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Decorations, Improvement Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-107).

The attached draft FY 2018 appropriations request tracks most of the information we understand may be required by the Senate Commerce/Justice/Science Appropriations Subcommittee for programmatic funding requests for the Subcommittee's May 18 deadline.

We ask, and hope, that you can formally make this important funding request to the Subcommittee and Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Shaheen.

The Baldrige Performance Excellence Program is a public-private partnership that promotes U.S. competitiveness in business, health care, education, and nonprofit organizations by providing world-wide recognized performance excellence criteria, assessments, and training tools for these organizations. These criteria help entities effectively integrate all aspects of their operations and businesses including, but not limited to, workforce improvements, IT integration, cyber-security, information transfer, and developing a systems approach to organizational excellence. This program was funded from 1987 to 2011 with some federal funding as well as private donations, but has been operating without any federal funding since Fiscal Year 2012. Since then, the private Baldrige Foundation has been paying the salaries and expenses for the federal employees at NIST (almost \$22 million to date).

To ensure the continuation of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, the program will need FY 2018 federal funding again for program expenses and NIST employee salaries from within the Department of Commerce's budget. Absent the \$ 7.5 million that is being requested, the Baldrige Program at NIST will likely be discontinued.

Thank you for your support of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Title

Your Address

Your City, State, Zip

Your Phone Number