

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

During your recent State of the Union, you recognized the “giant leaps of science and discovery” our country has made and how we have “transformed science.”¹ We agree that these important achievements of our country deserve recognition and celebration, and we therefore urge you to begin awarding the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation to honor Americans whose discoveries, code, ideas, and inventions will drive America and our economy forward.

The National Medal of Science is the highest U.S. government honor recognizing scientific achievement and it was created by an Act of Congress to bestow special recognition to individuals who have made “outstanding contributions to knowledge in ... sciences.”² President Kennedy created the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science to evaluate nominations for the National Medal of Science, in coordination with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Science Foundation.³ The National Medal of Science has been awarded by every President from President Kennedy to President Obama to over 500 physicists, biologists, chemists, mathematicians, engineers, and social and behavioral scientists.⁴

Previous recipients of the National Medal of Science include geneticist Mary-Claire King, who discovered BRCA1 and BRCA2, the genetic mutations associated with breast cancer, and who used genetics to reunite families separated by human rights abuses; computer scientist Leonard Kleinrock, who pioneered the idea of packet switching, which underpins the internet, and who directed the first transmission over ARPANET, which was a predecessor to the modern internet; and astrophysicist Sandra Faber, who contributed to our understanding of how galaxies are formed and who helped design the Hubble and Keck telescopes.⁵

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation is the highest U.S. government honor recognizing technological achievement. The National Medal of Technology was created by an Act of Congress to recognize individuals and companies for their “outstanding contributions to the promotion of technology or technological manpower for the improvement of the economic, environmental, or social well-being of the United States.”⁶ The National Medal of Technology and Innovation has been awarded by every President from President Reagan to President Obama to over 220 individuals and companies that have pushed our country's technological achievements and understanding forward.⁷

Previous recipients of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation include Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, Bill Gates, AT&T Bell Laboratories, IBM, and eBay.⁸

In May 2016, President Obama awarded the National Medal of Science to nine recipients and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation to eight recipients.⁹ While your Administration has not awarded any National Medals since you entered office, dedicated civil servants and appointees have continued doing the important work necessary for you to award these honors to deserving nominees. The President's Committee on the National Medal of Science published calls for nominees in 2017¹⁰ and 2018¹¹. The National Medal of Technology and Innovation Nomination Evaluation Committee published calls for nominees in 2017,¹² 2018,¹³ and 2019¹⁴ and met to evaluate nominations in 2018¹⁵.

The National Medals allow Americans to celebrate our leadership in the sciences and technology, as well as the arts and the humanities. You have stressed the importance of ensuring that young Americans enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.¹⁶ Awarding National Medals is a step you alone can take, and so we urge you to do so.

Sincerely,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

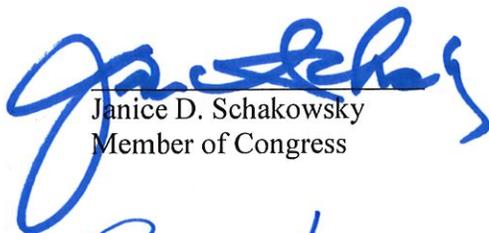
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Jerry McNerney
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Richard Blumenthal
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Tony Cardenas
Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Daniel Lipinski
Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Sherrod Brown
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Bill Foster
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

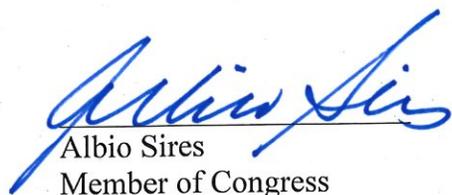
Suzanne Bonamici
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

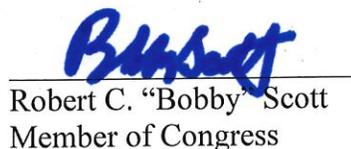
David N. Cicilline
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Grace Meng
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary of the Department of Commerce
The Honorable France A. Córdova, Director of the National Science Foundation
The Honorable Andrei Iancu, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual
Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
The Honorable Members of the President's Committee on the National Medal of
Science
The Honorable Members of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation
Nomination Evaluation Committee
Ms. Sherrie B. Green, Program Manager of the National Medal of Science
Mr. John Palafoutas, Program Manager of the National Medal of Technology and
Innovation Program
Mr. James L. Rathmann, Chairman of the Board of the National Science and
Technology Medals Foundation
Mr. Andrew Rathmann-Noonan, Executive Director of the National Science and
Technology Medals Foundation

¹ Donald J. Trump, "Remarks by President Trump in State of the Union Address" (February 5, 2019), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address-2/>.

² An Act To Establish a National Medal of Science To Provide Recognition for Individuals Who Make Outstanding Contributions in the Physical, Biological, Mathematical, and Engineering Sciences, Pub. L. No. 86-209, 42 USC 1881 (1959).

³ Exec. Order No. 10961, 26 Fed. Reg. 7823 (August 21, 1961)

⁴ "National Medal of Science," National Science Foundation, accessed February 17, 2019, <https://www.nsf.gov/od/nms/medal.jsp>.

⁵ "Laureates," National Science & Technology Medals Foundation, accessed February 17, 2019, <https://www.nationalmedals.org/laureates>.

⁶ The "National Medal of Technology" was created by the Stevenson–Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96–480 (1980); the medal was renamed by Section 1003 of the Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-69 (2007)

⁷ "National Medal of Technology and Innovation (NMTI) Recipients," United States Patent and Trademark Office, accessed February 17, 2019, <https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/ip-programs-and-awards/national-medal-technology-and-innovation/recipients>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ "President Obama Honors Nation's Leading Scientists and Innovators" (National Science Foundation, May 20, 2016), https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=137247.

¹⁰ “2017 National Medals: Call for Nominations” (Executive Office of the President of the United States), accessed February 17, 2019, <https://www.nsf.gov/od/nms/medals-flyer-2017.pdf>.

¹¹ “National Medal of Science.”

¹² “Nominations Sought for National Medal of Technology and Innovation” (United States Patent and Trademark Office, March 8, 2017), <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/news-updates/nominations-sought-national-medal-technology-and-innovation-4>.

¹³ “Nominations Sought for National Medal of Technology and Innovation” (United States Patent and Trademark Office, January 5, 2018), <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/news-updates/nominations-sought-national-medal-technology-and-innovation-5>.

¹⁴ “Nominations Sought for National Medal of Technology and Innovation” (United States Patent and Trademark Office, January 16, 2019), <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/news-updates/nominations-sought-national-medal-technology-and-innovation-6>.

¹⁵ National Medal of Technology and Innovation Nomination Evaluation Committee Meeting, 83 Fed. Reg. 54318 (October 29, 2018)

¹⁶ “President Donald J. Trump Is Working to Ensure All Americans Have Access to STEM Education” (The Office of Science and Technology Policy, December 4, 2018), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-is-working-to-ensure-all-americans-have-access-to-stem-education/>.