Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2025

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman,
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member,
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng:

We are writing to request that you support robust funding in the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill for the National Science Foundation's National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (MagLab).

The facility is facing a proposed funding cut of 40%, a reduction of $16 million per year. If this funding is not restored in the annual Appropriations Act, the impacts to our national security, global positioning, and economic growth will be considerable and the United States would lose or greatly diminish its leadership in the following areas:

- Scientists at the MagLab are improving our understanding of quantum materials which are key to the technologies needed for our national security and technological superiority, particularly in the realm of artificial intelligence. The MagLab has unique capabilities that make it the only facility in the US capable of this quantum research.

- Researchers at the MagLab are working with industry partners to extract rare earth elements from the byproducts of mining – creating a domestic supply chain of critical minerals. This work reduces our reliance on China.

- Scientists and engineers at the MagLab are also collaborating with U.S.-based companies to help them understand and improve the superconducting materials needed to build magnets for limitless energy-producing fusion reactors and biomedical devices.

- MagLab researchers are developing high-strength, high-conductivity materials that can be used in energy transmission, high-torque electric motors, and defense applications (such as rail guns).

NSF founded the MagLab in 1990, and it has been operating under the excellent guidance of Florida State University, in partnership with the University of Florida and Los Alamos National

Laboratory. The MagLab is the only laboratory of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, the largest in the world, and the only national lab in Florida. With over 500,000 square feet, the lab is home to the world's highest field magnets and serves as a national and global resource for magnet-related research in nearly all areas of science. The facility welcomes over 1,800 researchers annually to advance basic and applied discoveries in quantum materials, biomedicine and biotechnology, energy, engineering, chemistry, materials science and physics. The MagLab is a valuable national resource and treasure.

At this moment, China is boasting about surpassing the United States' world records in high field magnets for research. We must bolster our commitment to this cutting-edge science, especially in areas that are critical to our national security and our standing as the world's only superpower. Funding for the MagLab will help keep the facility as the internationally recognized leader in magnet science, development, and construction. Partnerships in magnet technology are central to the success of American business and industry including fusion companies, defense, MRI/NMR manufacturing, transportation, and energy.

In addition to the vital science work performed, this facility employs 500 Floridians and brings $325 million per year to Florida's economy and is projected to generate $14.2 billion over the next 20 years to the nation. That is a $6.44 economic return for every $1 invested. Significant cuts to the NSF funding for the MagLab will hinder national security, cede technological leadership to China, and lead to loss of jobs and economic impact on the state and nation.

As you work to advance the Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill, please keep this important program in mind. It is crucial that we sustain the excellent high magnetic field science being done in Florida and at Los Alamos National Laboratory by continuing to support this vital program.

Sincerely,

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress

Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress

Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Jimmy Patronis
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress