

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Rogers:

The undersigned associations request your support to improve and strengthen the National Security Innovation and Industrial Base (NSIB) in the FY2023 National Defense Authorization.

In recent years, government policies that hinder innovation and adaptation have negatively impacted the NSIB. Additionally, there are fewer incentives for private industry to work with the federal government in general, and the Department of Defense in particular.

Furthermore, members of the NSIB, such as traditional defense contractors, are at a severe disadvantage in, among other things, recruiting the high-skill talent necessary for innovation and keeping pace with technological advancement. This is occurring at a critical juncture in global security and precisely at a time when the federal government increasingly relies on commercial technologies. We believe this trend must be reversed.

Accordingly, the undersigned associations, working collaboratively, have developed a set of legislative proposals to strengthen NSIB's ability to recruit and retain a talented workforce and better equip the defense acquisition workforce to collaborate with private industry.

Specifically, these proposals would support:

1. Recruiting and retaining a STEM industrial base workforce;
2. Training and educating the future NSIB workforce;
3. Strengthening the government acquisition workforce; and
4. Bolstering the federal government's ability to recruit and retain private industry, including small businesses.

We will contact your staff to share these legislative proposals. We applaud your Committee's work and commitment to the NSIB, and look forward to working with you to strengthen this essential sector.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA)
National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)
Professional Services Council (PSC)
The Center for Procurement Advocacy (CPA)
The Computing Technology Industry Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services

cc: Members of the House Committee on Armed Services