

Materials Research Society Statement on the Administration's Fiscal Year 18 Budget Request to Congress

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Washington, DC— The Materials Research Society (MRS), a multidisciplinary society of over 14,000 scientists and technologists that supports sustained and robust federal investment in scientific research, today provided the following statement on the release of President Trump's budget submission to Congress:

“The Materials Research Society expresses deep concern regarding the Administration's FY 18 budget proposal to Congress. Unfortunately, the budget fails to adequately address basic and applied research needs across the domestic R&D portfolio, including the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy (DOE) and other federal agencies.

In terms of the Department of Defense, funding for basic and applied research efforts would be reduced by almost 6 percent, with the largest cuts coming in the category of advanced technology development. These cuts threaten America's role as an established leader in developing technologies and pursuing the advances that make our military infrastructure a global leader, as well as ensuring the role of the American warfighter as the best equipped in the world.

As far as the National Science Foundation, cuts in an agency budget that is one of the most important domestic supporters of basic research, would have a deleterious effect on our community. If enacted, the proposal would see the agency's budget cut by 11 percent, with the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate being cut by almost 10 percent and the Division of Materials Research within that group suffering a 9 percent cut. These cuts would limit the number of grants that scientists could receive to conduct their research. The result would be an erosion of US science and technology capabilities, including the training of the next generation workforce in this area.

The National Institutes of Health would see a cut of \$7.2 billion – cuts that would affect biomaterials research in the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Engineering (NIBIB). The NIBIB is charged with improving human health by leading the development of biomedical technologies and accelerating their application. NIBIB supports research that integrates engineering with the physical and life sciences to develop tools, instruments, and emerging technologies that can be applied to a broad range of biomedical and health care problems.

Finally, the Department of Energy's Office of Science budget would be reduced by 17 percent, or about \$4.5 billion. Basic Energy Sciences would see its budget fall 16.9 percent to \$1.555 billion. Also problematic is the proposed elimination of ARPA-E and the significant reduction in funding for EERE. As DOE is one of the largest domestic funding agencies for basic research, these cuts would severely hamper future innovations and discoveries.

MRS calls on Congress to restore funding for these core agencies and programs and to protect the nation's scientific, research and innovation enterprise. For more information about MRS or the importance of scientific research, please visit <http://www.mrs.org/advocacy>.”