



News from Washington

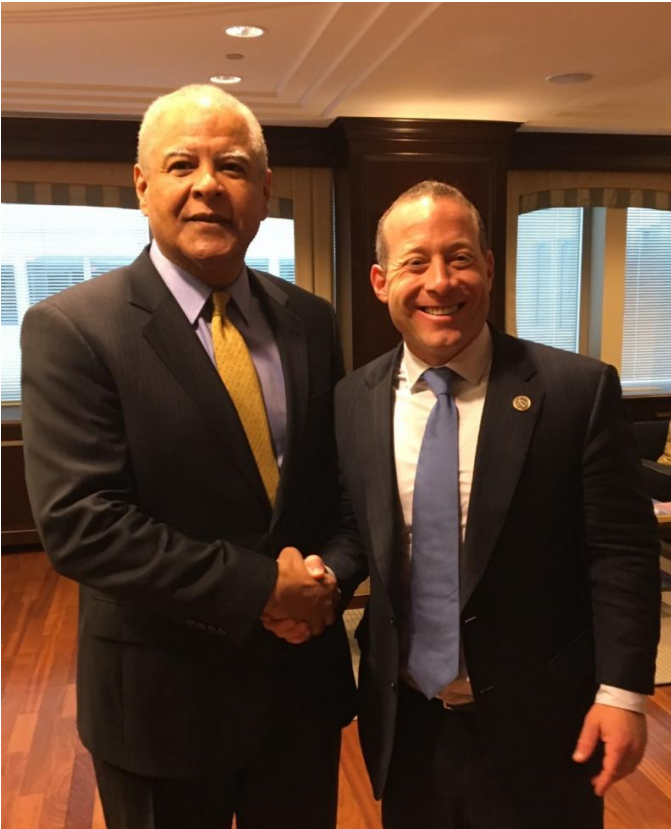
Greetings! 2018 is off to a great start for the National Photonics Initiative (NPI). This quarter's newsletter includes highlights from our annual Capitol Hill Day, an update on the tremendous progress being made on the National Quantum Initiative (NQI) and a note on key federal programs that support NPI's work.

NPI's CAPITOL HILL DAY 2018 A SUCCESS



On April 24-25, volunteers from across the U.S. traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for optics and photonics during the NPI's Capitol Hill Day. Representatives from universities, companies and laboratories met with key members of Congress and congressional staff to discuss the importance of maintaining federal funding for programs that support the advancement of optics and photonics; implementation of a National Quantum Initiative (NQI) to increase public and private sector collaboration in quantum technology; and, developing a workforce that is ready to meet the changing needs of the optics and photonics industries. The NPI volunteers completed 40 meetings during their day on Capitol Hill, and lawmakers and staff benefited tremendously from the constituent perspectives they provided. Attendees also heard from Congressman Josh Gottheimer (D-New Jersey), a member of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. In his remarks, Gottheimer urged participants to share the real-world impact of their research and work with policymakers on Capitol Hill. To view the documents delivered to congressional offices by the NPI representatives during Capitol Hill Day, please visit the [Government](#) page of the NPI website. Also visit the [NPI Capitol Hill Day 2018 photos](#) page. The NPI is very appreciative to all the volunteers who traveled

to Washington, D.C. to make the case for optics and photonics.



NPI Chair Ed White & Rep. Josh Gottheimer

[Visit our website](#)

NATIONAL QUANTUM INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN BROUGHT TO CAPITOL HILL

The National Quantum Initiative (NQI) Action Plan was finalized in early April 2018 and presented as a top priority during Capitol Hill Day 2018. Bringing industry, academia and government together, the NQI Action Plan has been a year in the making and marks the next step in the effort to earn legislative support in Congress. The Action Plan was drafted by our experts Chris Monroe and Mike Raymer and includes signatures from representatives of Intel Corporation, IBM, and Northrop-Grumman to name a few. It was created to provide specific details on how the NQI should be implemented. These details include specifics on funding and an investment in three to six new facilities called Quantum Innovation Laboratories (QILabs), a Quantum Research Network (QRNet) and a Quantum Computing Access Program (QCAP). The Action Plan was discussed with the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services, House Science Committee, Senate Commerce Committee, and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce Justice and State. As part of the effort, NPI also developed a brief outline of the role the Department of Defense would play in the implementation of the NQI. NPI representatives have been working closely with the House Science Committee and expect to see bipartisan legislation on an NQI introduced in that committee soon.

FINAL 2018 SPENDING BILL CONTAINS

SIGNIFICANT R&D INVESTMENTS



The Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 1625, also known as the Omnibus spending bill, was approved earlier this year with bipartisan support and provided critical support to several federal programs that foster the research and development of optics and photonics. Thank you to all of the NPI volunteers who advocated last year for increased federal funding for research and development.

During this year's Capitol Hill Day, NPI's representatives argued that now more than ever, it is important to maintain meaningful federal investments in photonics research as a way to expand innovation, competitiveness and economic opportunity. They urged lawmakers to maintain current funding levels, resist any spending cuts and support, at a minimum, 4 percent growth in funding for the nation's science research. A full list of NPI's funding priorities is available on the NPI website.



Congresswoman Slaughter & NPI Chair Ed White

REMEMBERING CONGRESSWOMAN LOUISE SLAUGHTER (D-Rochester, NY)

The photonics community lost a valuable congressional champion when Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-Rochester, NY) passed away on March 16. Congresswoman Slaughter was integral in establishing the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics (AIM Photonics) and played an important role in ensuring collaboration between industry, academia and government. In

her long tenure in Congress, Louise Slaughter had an impact on many initiatives. However, her impact on the optics and photonics industry has been notable. Whenever we met, she was always encouraging about the work we were doing. Her legacy will live on for many years.

For the full NPI statement remembering Congresswoman Slaughter please click [HERE](#).

INVITE YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE TO TOUR YOUR FACILITY OR LAB!

Giving policymakers firsthand knowledge about the value of optics and photonics is an essential part of NPI's efforts to advocate for funding and support on Capitol Hill. [Previous visits](#) like one held by Edmund Optics (EO) in Tucson, Arizona have been a tremendous success. In 2017, EO hosted Congresswoman Martha McSally (R-Arizona) for a half day tour of their facility and employee town hall with Rep. McSally, further strengthening the company's relationship with this key member of Congress. The NPI can help your group plan, execute and publicize a meeting with your local representative. To learn more about how to host a visit and how the NPI can help, please click [HERE](#).

QUICK HITS!

Be sure to follow our new twitter account - @NatlPhotonics !

Don't forget that May 16th is the first International Day of Light! Visit <https://www.lightday.org/about> for more information.

Sincerely,



Ed White, Chair, National Photonics Initiative

Contact Us:

The NPI wants to hear from you! Are you interested in joining our efforts? Do you have questions? Need additional information? Please contact Emily Pappas at epappas@cogent-strategies.com or Krisinda Plenkovich at krisindap@spie.org.

Please visit the NPI website for more information: www.lightourfuture.org.

