

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AGING

May 22, 2026

Brian Stone
Acting Director
National Science Foundation
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Acting Director Stone:

Thank you for your continued commitment to advancing and supporting science and engineering across the United States. I write to respectfully urge your full and fair consideration of the NEO-SMART (Northeast Ohio Strengthening Manufacturing for American Resilience through Technology) proposal for the next round of Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) awards.

The NSF Engines program plays a critical role in building regional innovation systems that accelerate breakthroughs in emerging technologies, drive economic growth, strengthen American competitiveness, and enhance national security. NEO-SMART aligns cutting-edge research, workforce development, and advanced manufacturing technologies to position Northeast Ohio as a leading national hub for advanced materials and manufacturing. This effort is supported by a coalition of more than 70 partners across the region's 18 counties, including global manufacturers, research universities, small and mid-sized enterprises, workforce and education providers, economic development organizations, and public-sector entities.

NEO-SMART is aligned with statewide and national priorities, promising to drive economic prosperity, fortify domestic supply chains, and train Ohio's future workforce for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Northeast Ohio offers a skilled workforce, strategic location, and robust infrastructure to help meet the goals of the NSF Engines program and re-shore critical domestic manufacturing and supply chains.

I respectfully urge NSF's full and fair consideration of this proposal. Thank you for your leadership and continued support of scientific research.

Sincerely,



Jon Husted
United States Senator