January XX, 2026

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Grace Meng
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support Robust Funding for NIST Plumbing Research Program

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies,

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for robust funding in Fiscal Year 2027 for the NIST Plumbing Research Act. This important research program is helping to answer critical water quality, safety, and affordability questions. The outcomes of this program will positively impact how buildings and homes use water for decades to come by providing industry with the measurement science and applied research necessary to inform construction codes and standards and support the development of new technologies.

The authorization of the NIST Plumbing Research Program was included in the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 after more than a decade of advocacy from manufacturers, trade associations, and other industry stakeholders. Continued investment in this program is essential, as plumbing design approaches, technologies, codes, and standards have not kept pace with the growing challenges faced by our sector, in large part due to long-standing technical knowledge gaps. Increasing awareness of the public-health and safety implications of building water quality—alongside rising pressures related to affordability, sustainability, and water security—has underscored the need for improved research into premise plumbing system design, installation, operation, and maintenance.

Premise plumbing systems are a critical component of the built environment, providing immediate access to safe drinking water and a reliable means of removing wastewater from homes, businesses, and institutions. The research being conducted by NIST is essential to

ensuring that plumbing systems can continue to evolve to address emerging concerns related to cost, water availability, environmental performance, and public health.

In collaboration with industry stakeholders, NIST has identified priority research needs and developed a research roadmap focused on the most pressing challenges facing the plumbing sector. As findings become available, this actionable research is being disseminated to standards-developing organizations, professional societies, educational institutions, and private-sector firms that rely on this information to update codes and standards, develop training and guidance materials, and advance plumbing technologies and design tools.

This important program currently receives funding through the general “National Measurement and Standards Laboratories” line item in the NIST budget. As Congress considers Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations, we respectfully urge you to include report language ensuring that the NIST Plumbing Research Program receives at least level funding, allowing this critical work to continue without disruption.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support for research that strengthens public health, water efficiency, affordability, and resilience in the built environment.

Sincerely,

[Signatories to be listed by organization here]