

Members of the Baldrige Community:

Thanks to your efforts, eight members of the House of Representatives submitted a funding request letter to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations, which requests \$8 million in funding for the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program in FY 2016. To view a copy of the final letter, follow this link: <http://www.baldrigepe.org/foundation/docs/BaldrigeFY2016LetterSigned.pdf>

What we need you to do next before April 1, 2015:

There is now a simultaneous process taking place in the U.S. Senate.

1. Please contact your **U.S. Senators** and ask them to formally make this important funding request to: the Senate Commerce/Justice/Science Appropriations Subcommittee and Chairman Richard Shelby. **Their deadline for submitting this request is April 2, 2015.**
 2. Use the draft letter below, and attach a copy of the appropriations request, which can be [found here](#)
 3. Also, please send us a copy of your letters to: support@baldrigefoundation.org.
 4. Follow this link to a full listing of Senate offices with addresses, fax numbers, and email contacts: <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>
 5. Here is the draft message for you to use in contacting your member of congress. *Adding personal, local success stories is always more powerful!*
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Dear Senator _____:

As a constituent, I need your support and help.

Attached is an appropriations programmatic funding request for the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program within the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST). The program has been successful since its inception in 1987. Since Fiscal Year 2012, the Baldrige Foundation has paid salaries and expenses for employees and program operations at NIST from its own foundation assets.

Please formally make this important funding request to the Senate Commerce/Justice/Science Appropriations Subcommittee and Chairman Richard Shelby. Their deadline is April 2, 2015.

Throughout our state and the nation, I have seen first-hand how important this program is to our competitiveness in the global economy. Baldrige drives growth in business and manufacturing resulting in more jobs. Baldrige helps improve health care quality and affordability. The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology recommended the Departments of Commerce and Health and Human Services build on the Baldrige program to help improve cost and quality of healthcare in the US.

The Baldrige program is also driving improvements in efficiency and student performance in our schools and higher education. Demonstrated benefits include improved graduation rates, college attendance rates, AP course participation and better performance including higher standardized test scores. With so much return on this small amount of funding, the Baldrige Program is clearly the best investment our nation can make for a competitive future.

In order to ensure the continuation of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, the program needs FY 2016 federal funding restored in the Department of Commerce's budget. It is a small funding request with enormous impact across the nation, and in every sector of the economy.

I am available to discuss this issue in greater detail with you or a member of your staff.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Title

Your Address

Your City, State, Zip

Your Phone Number