



# News from the NPI

December 21, 2022

## Congressional Update

Following the midterm elections in November, the 118th Congress will be under divided control. Republicans will have a narrow majority in the House and Democrats will hold a narrow majority in the Senate. The leadership of key committees may change but these decisions will not be made until January. As Congress wraps up the current session, federal funding legislation remains unresolved. Neither the House nor Senate have passed funding legislation for the coming year. Instead, the federal government is operating under a continuing resolution, extending current funding levels. As of mid-December, negotiators were working on a broad, long-term funding package. If they cannot come to an agreement, funding levels will remain static for at least several months and the new Congress would then need to consider spending legislation in the new session.

## Fusion Breakthrough Announced

In a recent news release the Department of Energy (DOE) and DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced the achievement of fusion ignition at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)—a major scientific breakthrough decades in the making that will pave the way for advancements in national defense and the future of clean power. This is a significant scientific breakthrough made possible by the High Intensity Laser Group, which has been a key priority for the NPI.

[Read more about this breakthrough HERE](#)

## Policy Objectives for Upcoming Congress

A key objective for the NPI in the upcoming Congress will be the reauthorization of the National Quantum Initiative. The original authorization became law in 2018. The next round of authorization is needed to expand research and development in quantum information science (QIS). The NPI will explore ways to support workforce development in optics, photonics and QIS. Additionally, implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act will be a top priority

for Congress, the Biden administration, and the NPI. As committees are formed in the new Congress, the NPI will actively engage new members and staff on these important issues and opportunities.



*NPI Steering Committee Chair Ed White and Rep. Josh Gottheimer*

## SAVE THE DATE

Join the National Photonics Initiative (NPI) for Congressional Visits Day taking place in Washington, DC on **February 28 - March 1, 2023.**

This is a great opportunity to advocate for science, and specifically optics and photonics, to your members of Congress and their staff and to let them know what is happening in your region. These meetings will focus on R&D funding, Congressional Optics & Photonics Caucus, and other legislation relevant to optics and photonics. The specific topics for the 2023 visits will be sent to participants closer to the date of our visits.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*Thank you all for your efforts and participation in support of NPI this past year. Wishing you and your families a safe and happy holiday and an excellent new year!*



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed White".

## CONTACT US

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