

SUGGESTED LETTER TO MEMBERS REGARDING OPTICS AND PHOTONICS CAUCUS

The Honorable [First and Last Name of Senator/Rep]
[Room/Building]
Washington, DC [zip code]

Dear [Senator/Representative] [Last Name]:

I am writing today as a constituent in support of the newly-formed Congressional Optics & Photonics Caucus and encourage you to become a member. The Caucus is co-chaired by Representatives Joe Morelle (D-NY) and Brian Mast (R-FL) and Senators Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) and Steve Daines (R-MT).

Optics and photonics is the science of light. Technologies that are enabled by light include lasers, sensors, cameras and lenses. Our military depends on this technology including LiDAR for tactical mapping, laser rangefinders to measure distance to a target, infrared to see at night, and next generation weaponry using directed energy. Many of the critical technologies of the future, such as autonomous vehicles, 3D printing, quantum applications, 5G and artificial intelligence are also enabled by optics and photonics.

In the current fight against COVID-19, optics and photonics has played a significant role. Both clinics and companies are utilizing infrared-based thermometers for contactless early detection of infected individuals. 3D printing has been utilized for rapid manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE) and parts for ventilators. As the healthcare community races toward discovery of a vaccine, optics and photonics enabled gene-sequencing instruments contribute through state-of-the-art multispectral cameras to map the sequences of hundreds of millions of target DNA molecules.

Within the State of [XX, INSERT AFFILIATED COMPANY/UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC INFORMATION. PRODUCTS PRODUCED/EDUCATION AREAS TAUGHT, JOBS SUPPORTED ETC].

These efforts are helping to build the next generation of skilled professionals necessary for future U.S. innovation in in this technology area critical for our national and economic security.

The Optics & Photonics Caucus will advocate for federal investment and prioritization of this important technology space for our country's economic and national security. To join the caucus, please email Jo Stiles in Representative Morelle's office at jo.stiles@mail.house.gov.

Please consider showing your support by becoming a member of the Caucus. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Title]
[Affiliation]
[Address]