

**Statement of Arvind Raman**  
**Nominee for Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and**  
**Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology**  
**Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation**  
**March 5, 2026**

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and distinguished members of the committee, it is a great honor to appear before you today as the nominee for the next Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology – NIST.

I am grateful to President Trump for nominating me, to Secretary Lutnick for his confidence in me and for his strong support for NIST, and to all of you for considering the nomination.

I would also like to thank my family – my wife Laura who is here and our son Arun. Our close friends, Carol and John, are also here.

I have been a faculty member at Purdue University for 25 years teaching engineering and doing research in nanoscale measurement science and technology and dynamic systems. I serve as the John A. Edwardson Dean of Engineering at Purdue – the Cradle of Astronauts - where thanks to the support of our trustees and President, we now award more engineering degrees annually than any other University, are in the top five nationally in graduate research rankings, and have kept tuition frozen for fourteen years – truly innovating to maximize excellence, scale, and affordability.

I first came to the United States 35 years ago from India to study engineering at Purdue University with a few hundred dollars in my pocket, and my first paycheck as a research assistant was not due until a few months later. I got by thanks to a loan the University gave to students like me with no credit history and thanks to the Goodwill store. And today, I am the Dean of Engineering at that great institution. After I returned to Purdue 25 years ago as a faculty member after completing my PhD at UC Berkeley, I spent a month doing research in the bowels of NIST, which was the start of many collaborations with NIST. And today, thanks to President Trump and Secretary Lutnick, I am being

considered for Directorship of NIST. Where else are such stories even possible than in the United States, the greatest nation on earth?

It is a happy coincidence that even as our great nation celebrates its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, this year NIST will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup>. For half of our republic's history, NIST's role has been foundational to advancing American industrial competitiveness. From its Nobel Laureates at the forefront of quantum science, to its leadership in AI metrology, its atomic clocks that maintain official US time and underpin our financial markets, its support of manufacturing innovation, its cybersecurity guidance that protects government, industry, and critical infrastructure, to its standard reference materials that enable Americans to trust their medical diagnostics results and help American industry lead at the frontiers of medicine, NIST's impact has been extraordinary.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with all of you to write the next chapter for NIST – one of maximum American innovation – enabled by accelerating technology innovation through partnerships with industry, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders; by championing trusted technology standards globally to empower American technologies scale and reach wider markets; and by accelerating the adoption of these technologies by American industry, driving up their productivity and creating a virtuous cycle where innovation begets innovation to drive economic growth.

If confirmed, I am excited to help NIST deliver on the President's AI action plan and help maximize innovation along the entire American AI tech stack, in semiconductors, in our quantum industrial base, in biotechnology, and in advanced manufacturing.

Thank you. I look forward to your questions.