SANDBOXAQ

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Brian Babin
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
United States House of Representatives
2320 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Babin and Members of the Committee,

SandboxAQ respectfully submits this letter in strong support of reauthorization of the National Quantum Initiative Act (NQIA). As the quantum technology landscape has matured since NQIA's 2018 enactment, the imperative for sustained federal investment and strategic coordination has only intensified. Reauthorization will cement the United States' leadership in quantum technologies, a domain where competition with strategic adversaries such as China is unprecedented.

Advances in quantum sensing, quantum cybersecurity, and quantum computing are reshaping national security posture, critical infrastructure protection, and economic competitiveness. The original NQIA framework has proven essential in catalyzing inter-agency coordination, establishing research centers, and building the commercial quantum ecosystem. However, the Act's current authorization expires at a critical juncture: as nation-states accelerate investment in quantum research and commercial quantum applications move toward deployment. For this reason, we must not waver in our resolve, but restore our commitment to leading the world in technological innovation.

SandboxAQ operates at the intersection of cutting-edge AI, quantum research, and federal mission demand. Our current portfolio includes multiple active federal contracts supporting the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), the US Air Force, and the US Army:

- AQtive Guard (DISA OTA): Quantum-enhanced sensing and communication hardening for Department of Defense networks, advancing resilience against quantum computing threats.
- AQNav (USAF SBIR Phase 2B): Quantum-enhanced inertial measurement for long-duration platform navigation without reliance on GPS, critical for contested environments.
- Transition to Quantum Sensing (DIU partnership): De-risking quantum sensing for defense applications with focus on operational technology insertion pathways.
- Materials Discovery (Army DEVCOM): Applying quantum simulation to the discovery of advanced materials for defense platforms.

These efforts exemplify the convergence that NQIA enables and its operational relevance: coordinated federal R&D spending across agencies (DoD, NSF, NIST, Energy), rapid transition pathways from laboratory to operational deployment, and the catalytic effect of federal programs on commercial innovation. Without coordinated reauthorization, this momentum will fracture.

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Reauthorization should address three critical elements:

- Clear authorization levels for quantum research across NQIA-designated agencies through FY2030, with explicit budget authority for transition mechanisms.
- Specification of national quantum applications priorities, particularly quantum sensing, quantum simulation, and post-quantum cryptography, with federal acquisition pathways aligned to technology readiness milestones.
- Formalization of the Quantum Economic Development Consortium and interagency coordination bodies to prevent duplicative spending and accelerate transition from research to deployment.

The quantum advantage will not be determined by who publishes first, but by who operationalizes applied quantum capability at scale first. That operationalization depends on sustained federal investment, clear national priorities, and rapid transition mechanisms; all of which NQIA reauthorization will secure.

We urge the Committee to prioritize this legislation and welcome the opportunity to provide additional technical input or testimony.

Respectfully,

Lloyd Dabbs

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