



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

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Warm greetings to those gathered in Washington today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act.

During my final year in the White House, my budget proposal included a \$2.8 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund, including support for a \$500 million nanotechnology initiative.

At the time, the potential impact of nanotechnology on the biological sciences alone, and the promise it offered around issues like cancer treatment, was staggering. But we knew that some of the research goals we were funding would take 20 years or more to achieve. That is precisely why it was—and is—critical for the federal government to support this work.

We viewed it as our responsibility to open the world of science to more of our fellow citizens; help them understand the relationship between science and economic growth, and the great questions science is seeking to answer; and help them see how those answers will affect their lives and their children's lives in profoundly important and positive ways.

In the last quarter century, nanotechnology research has contributed to scientific breakthroughs that have changed the way we live and work—from computer chips, to electric vehicle batteries, to the COVID-19 vaccines.

I'm grateful to everyone who has played a role in the nanotechnology revolution. Congratulations on 20 years of transformative work under the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act, and here's to many, many more.

Bill Clinton