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## **GOLDEN GOOSE AWARD WELCOMES COLORADO SENATOR CORY GARDNER TO BIPARTISAN GROUP OF SUPPORTERS**

**Gardner cites importance of curiosity-driven science to U.S. economy, health and national security in joining the award**

The founding organizations of the [Golden Goose Award](#) – which honors scientists whose silly, odd, or obscure sounding federally funded research has returned serious benefits to society – welcomed Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) to its [Golden Goose “Gaggle of Supporters”](#) today. He joins Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN), who originally envisioned the Award, his Senate colleague Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), as well as Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Charlie Dent (R-PA), Bill Foster (D-IL) and Randy Hultgren (R-IL).

“It’s an honor to join this bipartisan group of members to recognize our country’s scientists and some of their unexpectedly successful research,” said Sen. Gardner, who has been a champion of increasing basic research funding, particularly at the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Standards and Technology. “The Golden Goose Award showcases how investment in some research projects might not make sense at first, but ultimately can have an enormous benefit to society. For America to remain a leader in innovation, we must continue to support curiosity within our scientific community and acknowledge the positive impact such research has on our economy, health, and national security.”

The Golden Goose Award was founded in 2012 by a coalition of business, university, and scientific organizations to celebrate the stories of how sometimes obscure basic scientific research leads to major breakthroughs that broadly benefit society. The Award was conceived by Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN) as a strong counterpoint to the citations of basic research as wasteful federal spending by the likes of Sen. William Proxmire (D-WI) and his Golden Fleece Award. Learn more at <http://www.goldengooseaward.org/history/>.

“Our future depends on Republicans and Democrats proudly promoting science,” Rep. Cooper said. “Sen. Gardner knows the importance of research, and we are happy to have him on board.”

Sen. Gardner will join the rest of the Gaggle in congratulating the winners of this year’s Golden Goose Award on September 27 in Washington, DC. Awardees for 2017 will be announced later this year.

**Golden Goose Award Founding Organizations**

[American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#)

[Association of American Universities \(AAU\)](#)

[Association of Public and Land-grant Universities \(APLU\)](#)

[Breakthrough Institute](#)

[Progressive Policy Institute \(PPI\)](#)

[Richard Lounsbery Foundation](#)

[The Science Coalition \(TSC\)](#)

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