



Gordon W. Day, Ph.D.
2009 IEEE-USA President

16 March 2009

The Honorable Edward E. Kaufman
United States Senate
G11 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kaufman:

On behalf of the 215,000 U.S. members of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, I congratulate you on your appointment to serve as U.S. Senator from Delaware. We are delighted that you are drawing upon your engineering expertise to address issues of importance to the country and the American high-tech community. Your proposal for an "Engineering America's Future Corps" would advance important national needs by tapping into a strong public service interest within the engineering community.

We believe that Americans from all parts of the country should participate in and benefit from investments taken to restore American prosperity. Unfortunately, many communities lack the technological infrastructure necessary to compete in the 21st century and thereby assure their economic vitality and quality of life. In addition to traditional infrastructure, they need advanced utility, communications, energy, medical, and education systems. To acquire and utilize them efficiently and sustainably, they'll need strong, independent, engineering expertise that can guide them to wise choices, an expertise that many communities cannot afford to maintain. The Corps you propose could help address this important need.

Public service is a strong interest of both younger engineers and those who are near the ends of their careers and who would like to give back to their profession and community. A recent study by the National Academy of Engineering, "*Changing the Conversation: Messages for Improving Public Understanding of Engineering*," found that phrases such as "Engineers make a world of difference," and "Engineering is essential to our health, happiness, and safety," were among the most popular characterizations of our field. By providing service opportunities for individuals with STEM backgrounds that will serve their career development, your proposal would also serve to create role models whose efforts will improve public awareness of STEM's critical role in society, encourage interest in STEM-related careers, and promote diversity in the STEM professions.

We therefore fully endorse your initiative, and will be happy to assist you in helping it become a reality.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon W. Day".