



April 29, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

On behalf of the 210,000 U.S. members of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, I am writing to communicate our support for the *H-1B and L-1 Visa Reform Act of 2009* (S. 887) recently introduced by Sens. Richard Durbin and Charles Grassley.

For over a decade, IEEE-USA has supported “Green Cards, not Guest Workers” as an appropriate strategy to help meet the workforce needs of the U.S. high-tech industry. This strategy shifts the focus of America’s skill-based immigration system away from temporary (non-immigrant) work visas and towards permanent residency and citizenship. We are pleased to see that Sens. Durbin and Grassley have taken an important step towards making this change by introducing S. 887.

In their bill, Sens. Durbin and Grassley offer several needed reforms to the H-1B and L-1 temporary visa programs. These reforms will help our temporary programs operate as they were intended, as short-term solutions to unusual shortages in our labor force. America’s long-term need to add skilled professionals to our economy cannot be met with temporary work permits, but rather requires strengthening our domestic workforce and increasing the availability of permanent employment-based (EB) visas. These visas allow talented individuals from abroad to work in the United States on equal terms with American citizens, and after a few years, to apply for U.S. citizenship.

The Office of Management and Budget, Government Accountability Office, and Inspectors General of the Departments of Labor and Homeland Security have documented significant flaws in the current design, management and oversight of H-1B and L-1 visas. S. 887 will address these flaws in ways that are entirely consistent with our international trade obligations.

IEEE-USA hopes you will support S. 887 and future efforts to expand the EB visa program.

Thank You,

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

Gordon Day  
President, IEEE-USA  
GWD/RH:mcs