



13 April 2006

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1502 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-1101

Dear Representative Abercrombie:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I would like to urge you to support full funding for the President's budget request for general science, space and technology (Function 250) in the FY 2007 Budget Resolution.

The \$300 million cut for Function 250 in the House Budget Committee could jeopardize the funding increases for National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) and the Department of Energy's Office of Science called for in the American Competitive Initiative. These cuts would come at a time when many influential science and engineering organizations, such as the National Academies and the Council on Competitiveness, are strongly urging an increase in federal investment in basic research as a way to help America stay competitive in an increasingly global economic environment.

The urgent need to take prompt federal action to protect America's competitive edge by encouraging technological innovation is one of the most salient bipartisan, consensus issues in Congress today. All involved parties in Congress and the Administration have expressed strong support for the need make federal investment in basic science and engineering research a priority.

Many prominent economists such as former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan point to federal investment in basic research as one of the most important generators of long-term economic benefits. In fact, according to a report by the National Academies, at least 19 multibillion-dollar industries have emerged as a result of fundamental research in information technology alone.

We urge you to keep this tremendous payoff in mind as you work to craft this year's Budget Resolution to fully fund the American Competitive Initiative. Please help to keep America on the path of technological progress and economic prosperity by continuing the strong investments in science, engineering and technology and vote for full funding for Function 250. Thank you for your consideration.

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 220,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. IEEE-USA is part of the IEEE, the world's largest technical professional society with 360,000 members in 150 countries. For more information, please contact Bill Williams at (202) 530-8331; [bill.williams@ieee.org](mailto:bill.williams@ieee.org), or go to <http://www.ieeeusa.org>.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Wyndrum, Jr., Eng.Sc.D.  
President, IEEE-USA