

02 May 2006

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

Dear Representative Abercrombie:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I am writing to express support for H.R. 4954, *The Security and Accountability For Every (SAFE) Port Act*. We commend Chairman Dan Lungren and Ranking Member Jane Harman of the Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cybersecurity for their leadership in obtaining Committee approval. We strongly urge the House of Representatives to vote to approve this bill as soon as possible.

IEEE-USA believes that an improved surface transportation security program would result in reduced vulnerability, improved protection and preparedness against security threats. The provisions for enhanced detection and characterization will improve responsiveness and recovery from security-related incidents.

We strongly support the SAFE Port Act's mandate to the Secretary of Homeland Security to "direct research, development, test, and evaluation efforts in furtherance of maritime and cargo security (Section 16), however we believe this recommendation should be taken further. IEEE-USA recommends increased funding for research and development in surface transportation security-related technologies, as well. This will enhance protection while maintaining the capability of our transportation infrastructure to transport people, goods and services. Transportation vehicles and infrastructure have been used as weapons, for the transportation of contraband, and as terrorist targets. In the United States there are four million miles of paved roadway, more than 600,000 bridges and tunnels, over 141,000 miles of rail track used for freight, and over 10,000 miles used for transit systems. This infrastructure provides an open conduit for the transport of the majority of the nation's goods and population. It is critical that this important and potentially vulnerable infrastructure also be protected.

Past transportation security requirements focused on end-point control of the load contents and the vehicle. Issues of the day force the use of more robust monitoring and control systems throughout the transportation cycle. Such systems benefit both the public and the operators of these transportation modes. The United States should increase the funding of transportation security related research and development in such areas as:

- Establishment of transportation security standards
- Surveillance and sensors, including hazardous material detection
- Promising emerging technologies, such as robotics and automated response systems
- Geographic location and identification
- Data gathering and analysis
- Communications and dissemination of information

- Physical security controls employing techniques, such as biometrics
- Applications and systems that use radio frequency identification to provide real-time asset control and monitoring.

This funding will give the United States the technological freedom, and a portfolio of technological options, to match the necessary security level to counter threats. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

IEEE-USA is an organizational unit of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., created in 1973 to advance the public good, while promoting the careers and public-policy interests of the more than 220,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. If you have any questions or we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Williams, legislative representative for our Committee on Transportation and Aerospace Policy, at (202) 530-8331.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph W. Wyndrum, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

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

**[Similar letter was sent individually to all members
of the U.S. House of Representatives via fax, 5/2/06.]**