

5 June 2006

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
284 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America, I am writing to express support for the goals outlined in the Intermodal Shipping Container Security Act (S.376). We sincerely appreciate your leadership in introducing legislation that is designed to help reduce the vulnerability of our nation's ports of entry.

The United States government is responsible for ensuring safety at 317 official points of entry; Texas alone has 27. As Congress continues to discuss the critical issue of how to best accomplish this daunting task, IEEE-USA recommends incorporating a substantial research and development effort in highways, rail and waterways, as part of a balanced homeland and transportation security policy. Pleased find enclosed the approved IEEE-USA position statement Surface Transportation Security. In our statement we outline several recommendations that we feel are vital to any comprehensive transportation security initiative.

The potential threats in all the transportation sectors grow more and more sophisticated. Likewise the technology needed to combat these unforeseen emerging threats needs to do much more than keep pace. Adequate funding for a robust research and development program will give the United States the technological freedom, and a portfolio of technological options, to match the necessary security level to counter the threat offered. Thank you again for leadership in this important issue. IEEE-USA stands ready to help in any way possible to achieve our common goal of ensuring a safe and vibrant multimodal transportation system in the United States. For more information, please contact Bill Williams at (202) 530-8331, or at bill.williams@ieee.org.

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, go to <http://www.ieeeusa.org>.

Sincerely,



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

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