

14 June 2006

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
235 Cannon Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Hastert:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - United States of America (IEEE-USA) to ask your support in bringing the Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act (H.R. 5358) and the Early Career Research Act (H.R. 5356) to the House floor as expeditiously as possible. These bills were unanimously passed by the House Science Committee on June 6th as a competitiveness “package” in order to help advance the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative by strengthening key education and research programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Energy Department’s Office of Science.

H.R. 5356 would authorize the NSF and DOE’s Office of Science to provide grants to researchers just starting their careers to conduct high-risk, high-return research and expands an NSF program that helps universities acquire high-tech equipment that is shared by researchers and students from various fields.

H.R. 5358 would advance science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education at all levels by strengthening existing programs at the National Science Foundation, including the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships to science, engineering and math majors in return for a commitment to teaching; the Math and Science Partnership Program, which supports collaborative efforts to provide resources and training for K-12 math and science teachers; and the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program, which provides grants to colleges and universities to improve undergraduate science, math and engineering programs.

These bills offer practical responses to our nation’s competitiveness challenge and would make a real contribution to sustaining U.S. technological leadership. We ask that the House move quickly to consider this legislation and work with the Senate to ensure its passage before the close of the 109th Congress.

Sincerely,



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