



13 September 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Senate Majority Leader
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Frist:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I am writing to urge your support for H.R.4954, The Security and Accountability For Every (SAFE) Port Act. The IEEE-USA believes that an improved surface transportation security program would result in reduced vulnerability, improved protection and preparedness against security threats, and enhanced detection and characterization to 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 would like to see this recommendation taken a step further. IEEE-USA recommends increased funding for research and development in surface transportation security-related technologies that 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, the 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, which provide an open conduit for the transport of the majority of the nation's goods and population. This system comes under the jurisdiction and funding of federal, state and local governments. Highways, rail and waterways are used for the legitimate transport of nuclear, chemical, biological, explosive, and weapons cargos. Cargos and passengers may also originate from non-U.S. points of origin, and from other modes of transport, such as rail, ship and air. These diverse sources, along with the vehicles and highway infrastructure itself, may be targets of terrorist attack, as well as used for the transport of contraband materials and personnel. Past transportation security requirements focused on end-point control of the load contents and the vehicle; issues of the day force more robust monitoring and control systems both during transport and at both ends, to benefit public and operator security of these transportation modes.

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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

This funding 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 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 225,000 electrical, electronics, computer and software engineers 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 Research and Development Policy Committee, at (202) 530-8331.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph W. Wyndrum, Jr." with a vertical line to the right of the signature.

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