



27 September 2006

Mr. William Hoagland  
Director of Budget and Appropriations  
Office of the Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Hoagland:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I would like to offer our sincere appreciation for your vital role in crafting of the bipartisan National Competitiveness Investment (NCI) Act (S.3936). We understand that your personal leadership was instrumental in getting the compromise legislation drafted, introduced and placed upon the Senate Calendar for consideration.

The IEEE-USA has previously endorsed both the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (S.2802) and the PACE Energy Act (S.2197) from which the National Competitive Investment Act was derived. We feel this legislation will provide a solid foundation for ensuring that the United States remains a viable competitor in the new global marketplace. We feel that the funding outlined in the NCI for basic research, science, technology and mathematics (STEM) education and the related infrastructure represent an investment in America's future that ensures our scientific preeminence and technological leadership and competitiveness.

We are very encouraged to see that you and Majority Leader Frist, have taken a hands-on approach to ensuring this important competitiveness package gets passed in the Senate this year. IEEE-USA offers its substantial resources in achieving this laudable goal.

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

Sincerely,

Russell Lefevre, Ph.D.  
Vice President, Technology Policy Activities

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. - United States of America  
1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 1202, Washington, D.C. 20036-5104 USA  
Office: +1 202 785 0017 ■ Fax: +1 202 785 0835 ■ E-mail: [ieeeusa@ieee.org](mailto:ieeeusa@ieee.org) ■ Web:  
<http://www.ieeeusa.org>