



18 December 2006

The Honorable Ted Stevens
522 Hart Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to urge continued authorization and full funding for the Technology Administration (TA) at the Department of Commerce. Recent proposals in Congress to eliminate or reduce funding for the TA would be detrimental to U.S. competitiveness, national security and economic well-being.

The United States' position as the global leader in innovation is facing unprecedented threats as other nations, particularly in Asia, rapidly increase their research and development (R&D) investments. To maintain our competitive edge, the United States must continue to cultivate the pioneering environment that has promoted and encouraged ground-breaking ideas and technologies. The TA's self-described mission "to maximize technology's contribution to economic growth, high-wage job creation, and the social well being of the United States," is still vitally needed in this increasingly competitive global economy.

Under the TA's innovative leadership, the United States is developing programs to meet the challenges of globalization. The programs and successes attributed to the TA's actions are substantial. They are leading U.S. efforts on home-based healthcare technologies, Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID), International Technology Partnerships to enhance U.S. competitiveness, manufacturing R&D, the digital economy and countless others. It may be possible to resurrect these activities under other agencies, but losing the TA's leadership will bring great harm to U.S. technology leadership.

China, for example, is moving ahead aggressively in its attempt to chip away at America's lead as the global economic powerhouse. According to a December 4, 2006 report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, China's total R&D spending for 2006 will top \$136 billion, surpassing Japan to become the No. 2 investor in R&D behind the United States. Other nations are clearly making innovation a top priority, and we cannot stand idly and watch other nations surpass us. Retaining and fully funding the TA should be a vital part of our effort to maintain technological leadership and competitiveness. The TA's mission and activities would be hard to replicate, in addition to the voice it lends to the innovation and competitiveness agenda.

IEEE-USA is an organizational unit of the IEEE, created in 1973 to advance the public good and promote the careers and public policy interests of the more than 220,000 technology professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. The IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society. For more information, go to www.ieeeusa.org. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Bill Williams at 202-530-8331 or bill.williams@ieee.org.

Sincerely,

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



18 December 2006

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
722 Hart Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inouye:

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President, IEEE-USA

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