

29 January 2007

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman, House Committee on Science
2320 Rayburn Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gordon:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to express strong support for your legislation based on the National Academies report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," specifically the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Science and Math Scholarship Act (H.R. 362) and the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act (H.R. 363).

The United States is currently facing challenges to its science and technological leadership that are unparalleled in recent history. Last year, you were one of the members of Congress who requested the National Academies study that resulted in the Gathering Storm report, which warned that, "This nation must prepare with great urgency to preserve its strategic and economic security. Because other nations have, and probably will continue to have, the competitive advantage of a low-wage structure, the United States must compete by optimizing its knowledge-based resources, particularly in science and technology, and by sustaining the most fertile environment for new and revitalized industries and the well-paying jobs they bring."

We are extremely encouraged to see that you are heeding the Academies' advice and that you plan to make innovation and competitiveness a priority as the chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee. By focusing on improving K-12 and undergraduate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, and enhancing science and engineering research, these two bills will provide a significant first step towards addressing the imminent challenge. IEEE-USA would be pleased to work with you to help advance this important legislation. 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.

Sincerely,



John W. Meredith, P.E.
President, IEEE-USA