



31 January 2007

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Abercrombie:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I commend Congressional Leaders and the Chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for including increased investments in innovation and competitiveness in the proposed Continuing Resolution. We specifically applaud the increases in funding for research and development at the Department of Energy Office (DOE) of Science, the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

We understand that tough decisions had to be made in the current austere fiscal environment, so we are pleased to see that Congress recognizes the vital role that science and technology research and development play in ensuring U.S. competitiveness, energy independence and national security. In addition, the need for a strong and balanced federal R&D portfolio is critically important in order for the United States to maintain its leadership role and assure future economic prosperity in the emerging global economy.

IEEE-USA believes it is especially important that the U.S. recommit its resources to continue developing the knowledge and research base that have become the underpinnings of the country's economic health and public wellbeing. Support for science and technology R&D is a bipartisan initiative that offers Congress and the Administration an opportunity for establishing common ground. We strongly urge all members of Congress to support this important legislation.

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, or at bill.williams@ieee.org.

Sincerely,

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

[Similar letter went to all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives via FAX.]