



28 February 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to urge your support for a reversal in the continuing trend of drastic cuts in funding Science and Technology (S&T) research at the Department of Defense. Our nation's future security needs depend on a robust Defense S&T program now.

The President's FY2008 Budget Request of \$10.9 billion for defense S&T would result in a marked decrease of over 20.3 percent in Basic (6.1) and Applied (6.2) Research and Advanced Technology Development (6.3) from the FY2004 levels of \$12.05 billion, despite the Defense Science Board recommendation of 3.0 percent of total defense outlay. Basic Research would be cut by 7.1 percent and Applied Research would be cut by 16.2 percent.

We fully understand the difficult position facing you and your colleagues of a rising deficit and increased demands on federal expenditures by current global and national security needs. However, S&T is an investment in the future. A strong defense S&T program is not only an essential element of our national defense, but also has a proven track record of fueling economic growth and innovation while simultaneously training the scientists and engineers of tomorrow. IEEE-USA urges Congress to increase defense for S&T and maintain a steady, balanced approach to research and development funding.

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

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

***(Letters sent to House Budget and Senate Finance chairs/ranking members)***