

20 April 2007

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Akaka:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to urge your support for the "America Competes Act" (S.761). This bipartisan legislation would help preserve America's global leadership in science and technology and promote U.S. competitiveness and innovation.

The America Competes Act, which is based upon the recommendations of the highly regarded study by the National Academies report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, has been endorsed by dozens of scientific and engineering organizations, including the IEEE-USA. We strongly concur with the report's recommendations as well as its stark warning 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."

By focusing on improving K-12 and undergraduate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, and enhancing science and engineering research, the America Competes Act will provide a significant first step towards addressing the imminent challenge.

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. Senate via FAX.]