

27 April 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to express our support for S.1035, the H-1B and L-1 Temporary Work Visa Reform Bill. IEEE-USA applauds both Senator Richard Durbin and Senator Charles Grassley for introducing this important legislation and hopes that you will join them by cosponsoring it.

As you know, the H-1B and L-1 visas are short-term work permits. They allow companies to hire non-Americans for several years, but do not give those workers any long-term residency rights. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and the Inspectors General of the Departments of Labor (DoL) and Homeland Security (DHS) have documented flaws in the design, management and oversight of these programs, which have disadvantaged U.S. workers and needlessly exposed foreign workers to abuse and exploitation. S. 1035 contains several badly needed reforms to the H-1B and the L-1 visas, and would end the most egregious abuses of these visas by:

- Prohibiting companies from having more than half their employees on H-1B visas.
- Empowering the DoL to enforce existing laws and randomly audit companies for compliance.
- Prohibiting the outsourcing of H-1B or L-1 workers to third-parties.
- Improving prevailing wage protections to end the chronic under payment of visa workers.

IEEE-USA supports increased immigration of skilled workers and hopes that Congress will enact legislation to speed the high-skill immigration process. We also urge you to take positive steps towards fixing the broken temporary worker programs by cosponsoring S 1035.

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.

Thank You.



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

[Similar letter went to all Members of the U.S. Senate]