

23 July 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pelosi

I am writing on behalf of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to urge your support for passage of H. R. 2138, the Investment in America Act of 2007. This important legislation, introduced by Representatives Sander Levin (D-MI) and Dave Camp (R-MI), would provide for the permanent extension of the Research and Development (R&D) tax credit.

The current R&D tax credit has been extended twelve times since first enacted in 1981. The uncertainty created by these short-term extensions inhibits companies from investing in critical long-term, high-risk research projects of the type which have historically shown tremendous payoffs in economic growth, productivity gains and jobs. The tax credit is an essential incentive for companies to help mitigate the risk of investing in research that may not be realized in profitable products for many years to come, but will ultimately make America more competitive in the emerging global market. It is widely recognized that research and development assist and foster technological innovation and lead to long-term economic growth. However, companies have a five to ten year planning horizon for R&D projects that inhibit their ability to take advantage of the current R&D tax credit system. Permanently extending and expanding the R&D Tax Credit will strengthen incentives for private companies to undertake research that leads to new processes, services, and products. In addition, the output of these investments will also assist in providing the next generation of engineers and scientists that will be the foundation of America's technological and economic strength for the next century.

Thank you for your attention. IEEE-USA is an organizational unit of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., created in 1973 to advance the public good, while promoting the careers and public-policy interests of the more than 220,000 electrical, electronics, computer and software engineers who are U.S. members of the IEEE. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Bill Williams at 202-785-0017 or bill.williams@ieee.org.

Sincerely,



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

[The same letter went to the all Members of the 110th House Leadership Committee.]