

01 August 2007

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman, House Committee on Science & Technology;
Lead, House Conference on Competitiveness/Innovation Legislation
2310 Rayburn House Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gordon:

I am writing on behalf of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - United States of America (IEEE-USA) to urge you and other conferees on H.R.2272 and S.761 to include the House provisions on high-performance computing (Title V of H.R.2272) in the final conference report.

Title V amends the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-194) in order to strengthen the federal focus on high-performance computer research and development, including a new emphasis on multidisciplinary research. If passed, it should also improve access to the most advanced supercomputers by U.S. academic and industrial researchers. This legislation is urgently needed now to help the United States preserve its leadership in information technology, science and engineering. Supercomputing technology is vitally important to our national and economic security. For example, the Department of Defense requires supercomputers for real-time modeling and simulation and oceanographic operational weather predictions, as well as materials research. Supercomputers are also needed by the Department of Energy in the design and simulation of nuclear systems. Furthermore, by giving science and engineering researchers access to the world's fastest supercomputers, scientific breakthroughs and groundbreaking innovations across all fields are greatly enhanced. These changes would help researchers gain the tools they need to keep America at the forefront in scientific advances and technological innovation.

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 215,000 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 370,000 members in 160 countries.

See <http://www.ieeeusa.org>. Please contact Bill Williams at (202) 530-8331 if we can be of any assistance in supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,



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

[The same letter was sent to all Members of the House Conferees on Competitiveness/Innovation Legislation.]