27 August 2007

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

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I would like to thank you for your determined leadership in the passage of Public Law 110-69, the America COMPETES Act. The overwhelming bipartisan support for this historic legislation is indicative of the commitment by you and other congressional leaders toward ensuring our nation’s competitive position in a rapidly changing world.

Your leadership in the 110th Congress has taken America in a new direction to ensure our nation’s global economic competitiveness for generations to come. The America COMPETES Act will place renewed emphasis on math, science, engineering, and technology education, and a reinvigorated commitment to basic research. This is the culmination of bipartisan effort in the last year and a half to pass an innovation agenda in response to the global challenges identified in the 2005 National Academies report, Rising Above the Gathering Storm. The new law seeks to enhance U.S. competitiveness by increasing the investment in research, by strengthening education programs at all levels in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and by improving the American innovation infrastructure.

The America COMPETES Act will create a new generation of innovators, ensure sustained commitment to research and development, strengthen our energy independence, and support high-risk, high-reward pre-competitive technology development. The significant financial commitment authorized by this legislation is an investment in the nation’s global technological and scientific leadership that will pay dividends many times over this initial expenditure.
IEEE-USA was an ardent supporter of the America COMPETES Act as it went through the legislative process. We sincerely thank you and your dedicated staff for working with us and listening to our recommendations as you crafted this legislation into its final form. We look forward to working with you again.

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. 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

(Sample letter sent to sponsors of the America COMPETES Act)