

2 October 2007

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chair, Committee on Science and Technology
US House of Representatives
2310 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4206

Dear Mr. Chairman:

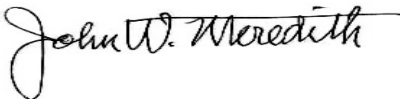
The IEEE-USA supports legislation that accelerates the commercialization of plug-in vehicle technology, vigorous funding of R&D, test, evaluation and demonstration programs and incentives to consumers and manufacturers alike. This position is described in the attached statement approved by the IEEE-USA Board. We sincerely appreciate the House Science and Technology Committee's leadership in exploring this important issue with the hearing scheduled for October 3, titled "Energy Storage Technologies: State of Development for Stationary and Vehicular Applications."

On September 19 the IEEE-USA convened a Symposium on Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles with in attendance from industry, academics and policy experts and while the formal conclusions of that meeting are in development it is clear that current battery technology, especially the new lithium ion chemistries can meet the energy and power performance requirements of the plug-in hybrid vehicles. However, cost and durability need further improvement to assure the technology will be affordable. The energy efficiency and fuel economy benefits are substantial from the plug-in hybrid vehicle and it offers the opportunity to significantly reduce US dependence of imported petroleum in the immediate future and without inventing new infrastructure such as what would be needed for hydrogen

There is a substantial opportunity to reduce future costs and improve performance of battery storage technologies through basic research, applied and manufacturing research and accelerating the path to volume manufacture through government incentives and demonstration programs. We urge the Committee to develop and pass legislation that accomplishes accelerated commercialization of plug-in hybrids and overall electrification of US transportation - vehicles and systems.

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

JM/WW:mcs