



13 December 2007

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Nussle:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) and ASME, we urge the Bush Administration and Congressional Leaders to resolve their remaining differences and complete the budget and appropriations processes in as timely a manner as possible.

We applaud the Administration and Congress for enacting the America COMPETES Act earlier this year, which authorizes increased funding for basic research and improving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. The overwhelming bipartisan support that this landmark legislation had demonstrates that our nation's leaders understand the vital role that technology and science play in maintaining U.S. leadership in an increasingly competitive global economy.

We urge you to keep the momentum of this historic legislation going by providing the necessary funding to improve STEM education and fundamental scientific and engineering research, which is critical to technology development and innovation. Despite the disagreement on overall funding levels, there is a broad consensus of support by the Administration and Congress for increases in the remaining Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bills for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology laboratories. Given this support and the vital role these programs play in securing America's economic well-being, standard of life, and national security, it is critical they be preserved from reductions in any budget negotiations.

IEEE-USA is an organizational unit of the IEEE. It was created in 1973 to advance the public good and promote the careers and public-policy interests of the more than 225,000 technology professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. The IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society.

Founded in 1880 as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, today's ASME is a 120,000-member professional organization focused on technical, educational and research issues of the engineering and technology community. ASME sets internationally recognized industrial and manufacturing codes and standards that enhance public safety.

For more information, go to <http://www.ieeeusa.org> or contact Bill Williams at 202-530-8331 or contact Kathryn Holmes, Director, Government Relations at holmesk@asme.org (www.asme.org.)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Meredith".

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Y. Zamrik".

Sam Y. Zamrik, Ph.D., P.E.
President, ASME