

9 May 2008

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McCrery
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. McCrery:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) I would like to express our support for legislation extending federal incentives such as production tax credits for carbon neutral sources of electric power generation.

IEEE-USA believes that carbon neutral technologies are essential options for electric power generation in the coming decades. These technologies include the generation of electricity from sunlight ("solar"), wind, water ("hydropower") geological heat ("geothermal"), plant or other biological material ("biomass") and nuclear power. Our overall vision is that of a robust electric power system that emphasizes energy efficiency in supply, delivery, and end use, with energy supplied by diverse energy resource options, including solar and other renewables, advanced nuclear, and advanced fossil technologies.

We support the continuation of incentives to promote carbon neutral energy technologies, targeted at assuring an adequate, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible supply of electricity. These incentives could then be phased out at some time in the future, whenever Congress deems that incentives for energy in general are no longer needed.

We also strongly urge Congress to develop and pass legislation that accomplishes accelerated commercialization of plug-in hybrids and overall electrification of US transportation. In addition to reducing gasoline consumption this has the potential to also reduce total energy expenses for the owner and the electric power industry. Existing commercial hybrid vehicles have proven to be successful components of the transportation system in the US and abroad. In conjunction with grid-supplied electricity from diverse domestic energy sources as previously described, transportation electrification can reduce greenhouse gases and minimize the nation's demand for imported oil.

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,



Russell J. Lefevre
President, IEEE-USA

JL/ww:mcs