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June 24, 2008

The Honorable Byron Dorgan (D-ND)
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete Domenici (R-NM)
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN)
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David L. Hobson (R-OH)
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Dorgan and Visclosky and Ranking Members Domenici and Hobson:

Few would disagree that America's long term economic growth and standard of living is due in large measure to engineering and technology innovations which have created jobs and strengthened U.S. competitiveness in the global economy. This innovation affects a number of industries and it is especially pertinent to the American automotive and manufacturing industries in which so many Americans earn their living.

Of particular importance to us is the appropriation of funds authorized under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-140) to foster new technologies related to transportation fuels and especially the cultivation of a "green collar" industry for America to address our growing need for power and electricity. Although this bill was signed into law nearly six months ago, several key provisions within the law have yet to be funded by Congress and the Administration.

As you are no doubt aware, our nation faces a litany of challenges related to our dependence upon traditional sources of energy for transportation and power generation. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), by 2030, global energy consumption will have risen by as much as 60 percent. Therefore, the gradual displacement of traditional sources of energy, while updating energy related infrastructure to meet growing demand could ensure economic growth and innovative strategies throughout the twenty-first century.

Technologies related to both transportation and power generation have demonstrated enormous potential for the future of American and global transportation and power generation. However, in addition to the capital equipment required we need the human capital to design, build, operate and maintain the evolving new energy systems. This means training and employing workers at all levels. The evolution of new "green collar" jobs to service these growing industries could catalyze a new generation of engineers and

scientists in our nation at a time when our competitiveness is increasingly being challenged by other nations.

Therefore, I am writing to urge you to appropriate funds for the projects that you and your colleagues voted to enact into law last year under EISA. Specifically, we urge you to consider the request by your colleague, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, along with other like-minded proposals related to energy and power. If appropriations are about identifying national priorities then this should be near the top of our list. The time for adoption is now and your thoughtful consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions or if you would like further information, please contact Robert Rains, ASME Government Relations Associate, at rainsr@asme.org or (202) 785-7483.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Barlow, P.E.
President, ASME



Russell J. Lefevre, Ph.D.
President, IEEE-USA



Kent Petersen
President, ASHRAE



Dale L. Keairns, Ph.D.
President, AIChE