



January 28, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. Senate  
S-131, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. Senate  
S-131 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Byron Dorgan  
Chairman, Energy and Water  
U.S. Senate  
S-131, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Bennett  
Ranking Member, Energy and Water  
U.S. Senate  
S-131, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Chairman Dorgan, Ranking Member Cochran and Ranking Member Bennett:

On behalf of ASME, IEEE-USA and ASCE, we commend you for your leadership on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provides vital appropriations for engineering, scientific research and education at the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science.

Numerous studies have documented the critical role that innovation and new technologies play in economic growth. Robust, sustained investment in research and development is essential for stimulating growth in high-wage industries, and for generating new technologies in critical areas of need, including energy, transportation and manufacturing.

ASME, a 127,000-member professional organization, along with IEEE-USA with 215,000 U.S. members, and ASCE with 146,000 members, are focused on technical, educational and research issues of the engineering and technology community. Our organizations have long been concerned that fundamental scientific and engineering research, critical to economic growth and job creation, is not being adequately funded by the federal government.

Funding for NSF, DOE and NIST will not only create jobs, but also lay a foundation for the Nation's future economic prosperity. Therefore, we thank you for your support of these historically important agencies contained in the America COMPETES Act (PL 110-69) in any economic recovery package. Should you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact either ASME Government Relations Director Kathryn Holmes at [Holmesk@asme.org](mailto:Holmesk@asme.org) or at 202-785-7390 or IEEE-USA Senior Legislative Representative Bill Williams at [Bill.Williams@ieee.org](mailto:Bill.Williams@ieee.org) or at 202-530-8331.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Barlow  
ASME President

Gordon Day, Ph.D.  
President, IEEE-USA

D. Wayne Klotz, P.E., D.WRE  
President, ASCE



January 28, 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-218, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-218, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
Chairman, Energy and Water  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2362-B, Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Ranking Member, Energy and Water  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2362-B, Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey, Chairman Visclosky, Ranking Member Lewis & Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

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