January 28, 2009

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

The Honorable Byron Dorgan                      The Honorable Robert Bennett
Chairman, Energy and Water  Ranking Member, Energy and Water
U.S. Senate                                U.S. Senate
S-131, U.S. Capitol Building                  S-131, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510                          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 or at 202-785-7390 or IEEE-USA Senior Legislative Representative Bill Williams at Bill.Williams@ieee.org or at 202-530-8331.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Barlow  Gordon Day, Ph.D.  D. Wayne Klotz, P.E., D.WRE
ASME President  President, IEEE-USA  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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Thomas M. Barlow
ASME President

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President, IEEE-USA

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