25 March 2009

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chair, Committee on Science & Technology
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC  20515-4206

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I would like to commend the House Science and Technology Committee for considering H.R. 1145, the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009. This legislation will strengthen the federal government’s role in coordinating research and development into technologies and processes to enhance water-use efficiency and water conservation.

The IEEE Water for the World project under the IEEE Committee on Earth Observation in conjunction with the IEEE-USA Committee on Aerospace and Transportation Policy has been working on worldwide water concerns for the past two years and we applaud the Science and Technology Committee's initiative in increasing the U.S. water supply via improved efficiency and water management techniques. Although our research and development activities are focused on using earth observation techniques to identify new sources of unpolluted water, we have learned of the critical shortage of potable water throughout the world and we believe that your legislation could serve as a model for all countries to improve their unfortunate lack of water.

A safe and adequate supply of water is vital to preserving the health and environment of all Americans. We thank the committee for addressing this important issue and urge prompt passage of H.R.1145.

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. For more information, please contact Bill Williams at (202) 530- 8331, or at bill.williams@ieee.org.

Sincerely,

Gordon W. Day
IEEE-USA President

GWD/ww:mcs
25 March 2009

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Ranking Member, Committee on Science & Technology
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC  20515-4304

Dear Representative Hall:

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Gordon W. Day
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