June 2, 2010

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to express our support for the Senate Aerospace Caucus. The Caucus will provide an important venue for discussing topics that impact the U.S. aerospace and aviation industries.

The U.S. aerospace industry is a critical component of the U.S. economy, employing more than 500,000 people in high-skilled, high-wage jobs and providing the United States with a $57.7 billion positive trade balance with exports exceeding $95 billion in 2008. However, European countries, China and Russia are quickly making inroads to challenge the United States in the global commercial aerospace market. Strong support for the aerospace industry is vital to maintaining this highly skilled workforce and bolstering U.S. competitiveness.

IEEE-USA Committee on Transportation and Aerospace Policy is chartered to contribute to the formulation of sound aviation, intelligent transportation and other air, space and ground transportation related issues and technology legislation, regulation and policy in the United States. It is heavily involved with several high-tech congressional caucuses, including the Congressional Research and Development Caucus, the Congressional Robotics Caucus, and the Nanotechnology Caucus. We offer our substantial experience with these and other caucuses to help provide planning and technical support, recommending topics and expert speakers and supplying background technical material.

In addition, the IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society has more than 3,500 U. S. members that work in navigation, avionics, mobile electric power and electronics, radar, sonar, telemetry, military, law-enforcement, automatic test, simulators and command and control. Members of the Society look forward to working with IEEE-USA to provide expert knowledge in each of these disciplines to further the aims of the Aerospace Caucus.

If IEEE-USA can assist you in getting the caucus off the ground, please contact Bill Williams at (202) 530-8331 or bill.williams@ieee.org. IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 210,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of IEEE. http://www.ieeeusa.org.

Sincerely,

Evelyn H. Hirt
President, IEEE-USA

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