President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I am writing to commend you and your administration for your recent announcement to bolster U.S. global competitiveness with the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP).

We think it is indisputable that our nation’s ability to create wealth and new jobs in America depends on a robust and adaptive advanced manufacturing industry in the United States. By bringing together American businesses, research universities and government agencies, the new partnership will facilitate the generation and transfer of innovative ideas into high-value goods and services for U.S. and global markets. And it will enable public and private sector partners to use limited financial resources and build the infrastructure needed to improve technologies, processes and products in a wide range of industries.

We applaud the AMP’s goal of mobilizing a truly national effort to invest in technologies that will create high-wage, high-value jobs in the United States. Additional steps will be needed to:

- Provide small and mid-sized manufacturers with access to affordable capital for initial and continuing investments through low-interest loans or tax credits;
- Encourage private investors to participate in the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), the Small Business Technology Transfer Research (STTR) and state technology advancement programs;
- Coordinate existing public and private sector programs to maximize synergies and minimize overlaps;
- Establish tax and regulatory policies that will make it more attractive for employers to establish research, product design and manufacturing operations in the United States than in other countries;
- Ensure continuing support for proven public sector R&D programs, including the Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Technology Innovation Program at NIST; and
- Make substantive improvements in STEM education and enact employment-based immigration reforms that will help to strengthen America’s advanced manufacturing workforce.

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of 210,000 engineering, computing and technology professionals who are U.S. members of IEEE. http://www.ieeeusa.org If we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Williams in our Washington office at (202) 530-8331 or email at bill.williams@ieee.org.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Jensen  
IEEE-USA President

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CC: Dr. John P. Holdren, Assistant to the President for S & T, and OSTP Director