December 7, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
FAX: 202.225.7682

Dear Chairman Smith:

We continue to applaud the work you are doing to reform America’s high-skill immigration system. Adjusting our immigration system to encourage the top international graduate students from American universities to become America citizens is a simple and effective way to promote job creation and economic growth. We commend you for prioritizing these reforms this year.

With our economic recovery balanced on the edge of the knife of job creation, it is imperative that America be able to retain as many of our top graduates as possible. Towards this end, we ask that you create at least 55,000 new EB visas for STEM graduates. This number is sufficient to meet current demand for highly educated STEM workers, plus their dependents. The skills and innovation these students bring to our economy will lead directly to the founding of new businesses, the expansion of existing companies and the creation of the new jobs associated with both. Congress should allow our country to fully realize these students’ potential by inviting all qualified Masters and Ph.D. STEM students to become Americans.

We call on Congress to introduce and mark-up legislation this year that creates 55,000 new EB visas for STEM graduates. We look forward to working with you to help make these reforms as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Jensen
IEEE-USA President