The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

Dear Representative Aderholt:  

On behalf of the 205,000 IEEE members in the United States, I want to thank you for supporting H.R. 6429, *The STEM Jobs Act of 2012*. While the bill failed to win the two-thirds vote necessary for passage, we are gratified by the bipartisan majority that it did receive.  

As you know, *The STEM Jobs Act* would have transferred 55,000 visas from the Diversity lottery system to the EB visa program. These new visas would have been available to international students who earn a masters or Ph.D. in a STEM field from a qualified American university. In doing so, the bill would have made it much easier for graduates from our top universities to become Americans after completing their education. And would have done so without increasing immigration overall.  

As the representative of the students who will be earning these degrees and the Americans who will be their colleagues and business partners, IEEE-USA believes this bill would have an immediate and positive impact on our high-tech economy. Providing skilled immigrants with a green card would have allowed them to fully contribute to the U.S. economy shortly after graduating, including starting their own businesses. American workers benefit directly when skilled students are allowed to work and innovate within our economy. And all workers are protected by the market-based freedom that comes from having a green card.  

We hope that the bipartisan support we saw during the vote for H.R. 6429 continues and that a compromise can be reached later this year. Support for STEM visas runs very deep in Congress and across the American public. It would be a wonderful Christmas present to America’s high-tech workforce if a bill similar to H.R. 6429 could be passed in 2012.  

We look forward to working with you on this initiative, and thank you again for your vote in favor of H.R. 6429.  

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of the more than 205,000 engineering, computing and technology professionals who are U.S. members of IEEE. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Russ Harrison in our Washington office at (202) 530-8326 or email at r.t.harrison@ieee.org.  

Sincerely,  

James M. Howard  
2012 IEEE-USA President