

21 June 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to urge you to act quickly to reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs that are scheduled to expire on September 30.

When addressing issues related to economic growth and competitiveness, Congress has given special consideration to small, high-tech firms -- in recognition that data indicates such companies tend to be highly innovative; play a significant role in technological advancement; and contribute to a high standard of living in the United States. In a recent report by the National Academies, SBIR was noted for achieving its goals of successfully contributing to knowledge embodied in data, publications, patents, licenses, presentations, analytical models algorithms, research equipment, prototypes, spin-off companies and new human capital.

In addition, the program was commended for increasing innovation, encouraging participation by small companies in federal R&D, providing support for small firms owned by minorities and women, and resolving research questions for mission agencies in a cost-effective manner.

Small businesses create jobs, particularly for scientists and engineers, which is what leads to breakthrough innovations that fuel large business employment. The SBIR and STTR programs are both small, relative to most government research programs. But the funds they provide make a huge difference to the companies that receive them and to our broader economy. Our nation's small businesses need to know that these programs will be around, not just for another month or two, but for years. This requires a multiyear reauthorization, not another short extension. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

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

RGJ/bw:bc



21 June 2011

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The Vice President of the United States (President of the Senate)
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to urge you to act quickly to reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs that are scheduled to expire on September 30.

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Sincerely,

Ronald G. Jensen
IEEE-USA President

RGJ/bw:bc



21 June 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
S-126 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inouye:

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