



11 March 2008

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Chair, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on
Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness
253 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I would like to commend the members of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness for its hearing on "*The FY 2009 Budget Proposal to Support U.S. Basic Research.*" We would like to submit the attached position statement on "[Federal Support for Basic Research](#)" for the hearing record.

IEEE-USA strongly supports increased funding for basic research in the physical sciences, mathematics and engineering. Basic research provides the foundation for scientific discovery, and is vital to advancing technological progress. In the civilian sector, basic research is the critical component to ensure technological competitiveness and innovation. In national security, technological superiority continues to be the cornerstone of our national military strategy. Federal investment in long-term, high-risk, high-payoff, basic research is particularly important today to maintain the United States' competitive edge in the increasingly competitive global arena.

We are encouraged to see substantial increases in the President's Budget Request for agencies under this committee's jurisdiction such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. However, the requested funding still fall short of the levels authorized by the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69). We urge Congress to pass a budget and appropriations bills with funding consistent with this Act.

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Sincerely,

Russell J. Lefevre
President, IEEE-USA

(Similar letter sent to Senate CS&T Committee members)