



27 March 2008

The Honorable John McCain
Candidate for President
John McCain 2008
P.O. Box 16118
Arlington, VA 22215

Dear Senator McCain:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I am writing to urge you and each of the other presidential candidates to accept an invitation to participate in a discussion of *Science and America's Future* at Science Debate 2008 on 18 April 2008 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Today, America finds itself at a unique and critical juncture that will likely demand extraordinary leadership. There is little doubt that the next U.S. president will likely face an era of unprecedented challenges in such areas as national security, climate change, energy independence, education and healthcare. At the same time, the most important factor in facing these challenges -- America's leadership in science and technology -- is continuing to decline in the face of rising competition in the global economy.

The American people need to hear from all of our prospective leaders about how they intend to address this daunting dilemma. Our commitment now to ensure that U.S. education, science, technology and innovation remain at the forefront of our global competitiveness strategy will determine our future U.S. health, security and economic well-being. We strongly concur with the assessment of the acclaimed National Academies report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*: "This nation must prepare with great urgency to preserve its strategic and economic security. Because other nations have, and probably will continue to have, the competitive advantage of a low wage structure, the United States must compete by optimizing its knowledge-based resources, particularly in science and technology."

We can think of few issues facing our next leader more critical to our country's long-term well-being than our ability to compete in a rapidly evolving global economy. For this reason, IEEE-USA is an organizational sponsor of this event and enthusiastically joins the more than 160 leading American universities and other professional organizations requesting that you agree to participate in the Science Debate 2008. Thank you for your consideration.

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 215,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. IEEE-USA is part of the IEEE, the world's largest technical professional society, with 370,000 members in 160 countries. Visit <http://www.ieeeusa.org>.

Sincerely,

Russell J. Lefevre
President, IEEE-USA

RJL/bw:bc



27 March 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
Candidate for President
Obama for America
P.O. Box 8102
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Senator Obama:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I am writing to urge you and each of the other presidential candidates to accept an invitation to participate in a discussion of *Science and America's Future* at Science Debate 2008 on 18 April 2008 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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President, IEEE-USA

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27 March 2008

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Candidate for President
Hillary Clinton for President National Headquarters
4420 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Senator Clinton:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I am writing to urge you and each of the other presidential candidates to accept an invitation to participate in a discussion of *Science and America's Future* at Science Debate 2008 on 18 April 2008 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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