



17 June 2009

The Honorable John Rockefeller
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

I am writing on behalf of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to urge your support for passage of S.1203, the *Grow Research Opportunities With Tax credits Help (GROWTH) Act*. This important legislation, introduced on June 8, 2009 by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) and others, would provide for the permanent extension of the Research and Development (R&D) tax credit.

The current R&D tax credit has been extended over a dozen times since first enacted in 1981. The uncertainty created by these short-term extensions inhibits companies from investing in critical long term, high-risk research projects of the type which have historically shown tremendous payoffs in economic growth, productivity gains and jobs. The tax credit is an essential incentive for companies to help mitigate the risk of investing in research that may not be realized in profitable products for many years to come, but will ultimately make America more competitive in the emerging global market.

It is widely recognized that R&D fosters technological innovation and leads to long-term economic growth. However, companies have a five to ten year planning horizon for R&D projects that inhibit their ability to take advantage of the current R&D tax credit system. Permanently extending and expanding the R&D Tax Credit will strengthen incentives for private companies to undertake research that leads to new processes, services, and products. In addition, the output of these investments will also assist in providing the next generation of engineers and scientists that will be the foundation of America's technological and economic strength for the next century.

IEEE-USA is an organizational unit of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., created in 1973 to advance the public good and promote the careers and public policy interests of more than 210,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of IEEE. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Bill Williams at 202-785-0017 or bill.williams@ieee.org.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon W. Day".

Gordon W. Day
IEEE-USA President

(Sample Letter Sent to Senate Finance Committee and Senate leadership)