



23 June 2010

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to urge your support for H.R. 5116, the *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010*. The extension of this landmark legislation is vital to ensuring America's long-term economic competitiveness and our continued global leadership in engineering and science.

The overwhelming bipartisan support for the original America COMPETES Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-69) was a testament to the importance that a vast majority in Congress places on the role that science and technology education and research and development play in ensuring America's economic well-being, energy security and workforce competitiveness.

Since its passage, the America COMPETES Act has been eminently successful in creating jobs, driving economic growth and competitiveness, and helping to prepare U.S. students to compete in an increasingly technical marketplace. The cornerstones of economic growth provided by basic research and technical education are needed now more than ever as our nation faces a need for long-term economic growth in an environment of unprecedented global competition. Given this importance, we urge the Senate to act now to pass this important legislation.

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 210,000 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 400,000 members in 160 countries. See <http://www.ieeeusa.org>. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Bill Williams at (202) 530-8331, or at [bill.williams@ieee.org](mailto:bill.williams@ieee.org).

Sincerely,

Evelyn Hirt  
President, IEEE-USA

EHH/bw: bc

[Similar letter was sent to all Members of the U.S. Senate.]

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