



20 April 2015

The Honorable Dan Lipinski  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lipinski,

IEEE-USA strongly endorses your proposed amendment to add a new Section 308 (Scientific and Technical Conferences) during the upcoming mark-up by the House Science, Space and Technology Committee of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015.

This amendment provides an important statement of guidance to the executive branch reinforcing the inherent value of information exchange and collaboration between federal scientists and engineers and their non-governmental counterparts, which is essential for sustaining U.S. technological competitiveness and national security. The findings stated in the amendment clearly identify the myriad ways in which federal participation in STEM-related conferences helps to advance critical national interests and agency missions. At the same time, the amendment is cognizant of the budget constraints within which government must operate and the need to ensure that federal resources are used efficiently.

As further support for the amendment, I would refer you to IEEE-USA's position statement on "Participation in Professional Conferences By Government Scientists and Engineers" (<http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/positions/profconferences1012.pdf> )

With over 200,000 members distributed throughout all 50 U.S. states, IEEE-USA is pleased to support you on this issue. If we can be of any assistance, please contact our Gov't Relations Director Russell Harrison at 202-530-8326 or [r.t.harrison@ieee.org](mailto:r.t.harrison@ieee.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James A. Jefferies".

James Jefferies  
2015 IEEE-USA President

cc: House Committee on Science, Space and Technology