



July 9, 2018

The Honorable John McCain  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCain and Ranking Member Reed & Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith,

IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 180,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of IEEE - the largest organization of technology professionals in the world. A survey of more than 8,000 IEEE members in the United States last year found that forty-seven percent owned a small business and five percent planned to start a small business within the next twelve months.

IEEE-USA believes that the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs are strong examples of public-private partnerships that advance technology development. As you prepare to go to conference on the FY19 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we would like to express our appreciation of the following small business provisions in the respective House and Senate versions and look forward to these provisions being included in the final NDAA measure:

SEC. 220A ESTABLISHMENT OF INNOVATORS DATABASE IN THE DoD

This provision in the House NDAA directs the Secretary of Defense to establish an innovators database coordinated across the DoD enterprise to focus on small business innovators that receive funds under the SBIR program or the STTR program.

SEC. 854 AMENDMENTS TO SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM AND SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM

Provisions in this section of the House NDAA provide for increased technical and business assistance – including support with intellectual property protection.

SEC. 893 PERMANENT SBIR AND STTR AUTHORITY FOR THE DoD

Currently authorized through September 30, 2022, this section of the Senate NDAA makes permanent SBIR and STTR authority for the Department of Defense.

Thank you in advance for your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandy Robinson  
2018 President, IEEE-USA

Cc: conferees – Rep. Steve Chabot, Rep. Nydia Velazquez, and Rep. Steve Knight