



15 May 2024

Representative Frank Lucas
Chairman
Committee on Science Space & Technology
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
Committee on Science Space & Technology
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren,

IEEE-USA endorses the *Expanding Partnerships for Innovation and Competitiveness Act*. As a technical standards developer, we are pleased to offer our support for this proposal to improve both NIST's ability to take advantage of the expertise and funding available in the private sector and create productive partnerships that will enable greater participation in standards development.

We have long supported legislation such as this which encourages innovation by promoting public-private partnerships. Research and Development (R&D) is recognized as the key driver of economic growth, and the lifeblood of national innovation and competitiveness. Economists estimate that up to half of the U.S. economic growth in the past five decades is due to advances in science & technology (S&T). We believe that initiatives such as this bill have the potential to supercharge U.S. emerging technologies R&D and expand the high-tech workforce in the United States. It is of national importance that the U.S. Government facilitates the economic environment required to strengthen the domestic infrastructure necessary to take full advantage of the innovation conducted in the private sector.

The United States has been the scientific and engineering leader and, consequently, a global economic leader for decades. However, this leadership is challenged by other nations which observe U. S technological capabilities and strive to match, and even surpass them. With science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) becoming ever more critical to national security and economic well-being, the need for well-qualified scientists and engineers at the highest levels of government has become ever greater. We fully support this effort to ensure that NIST can not only create high value jobs but attract and retain diverse and exceptional employees.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erica Wissolik at e.wissolik@ieee.org or (202) 360-5023.

Sincerely,

Keith Moore
IEEE-USA President