



October 18, 2006

GE Infrastructure

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The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
135 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510-1501

The Honorable William Thomas
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mr. Grassley and Mr. Thomas:

The General Electric Company is a strong supporter of the bilateral WTO agreement between the United States and Vietnam. We believe that we should grant Vietnam PNTR as soon as possible, in order to reap the benefits of that bilateral agreement. We urge you to support the passage of H.R.5602, the legislation granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status for Vietnam, before President Bush travels to Vietnam for the APEC meetings.

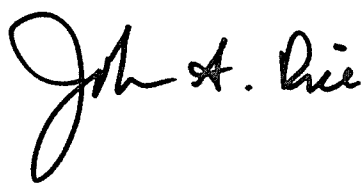
Congressional approval of PNTR for Vietnam is necessary for the U.S. business community to take full advantage of the benefits that will be granted to all WTO members after Vietnam's accession. Without PNTR, the United States will be the only WTO member country that will not have access to new market openings for goods and services. With a young and vibrant population of eighty-three million, Vietnam is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and is the fastest growing market for U.S. products in Asia. Upon joining the WTO, Vietnam will eliminate domestic subsidies, cut tariffs, and reduce trade barriers on a wide range of manufactured goods, farm products, and services. WTO membership also compels Vietnam to abide by international laws and practices, thereby leveling the playing field and enabling American companies and products to compete more effectively.

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GE will benefit from the dramatic reduction in Vietnam's tariffs, as well as the liberalization of its services market, particularly financial services. GE's increased ability to export to Vietnam will benefit workers in our plants around the United States, including Ohio, South Carolina, New York, and Pennsylvania.

We urge the Congress to approve PNTR for Vietnam as soon as possible, finally completing the normalization of the relationship between the United States and Vietnam. Please let us know what we can do to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".