

# **ECEDHA 2004**

## **Breakout IV**

### **Public Policy: Nuts and Bolts**



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Jim Aylor – University of Virginia

David Conner – University of Alabama

IEEE Congressional Fellow

# Session Overview

1. Wayne Bennett
  - Background on Public Policy Initiative
  - The Need and the ASEE Deans PPC
2. Jim Aylor
  - What CRA and others are doing
  - The ECEDHA perspective
3. David Conner
  - The IEEE and Congressional perspective
  - Guidelines and Limitations



# Background

- Discussed by ECEDHA Board in August 2002
- Breakout Session in 2003 Annual Meeting
- Reviewed by ECEDHA Board in August 2003
- Presented for action to the 2004 Annual Meeting



# The Need

- Growing role of technology in political decisions
- Lack of technical expertise among national and state politicians
  - 7 members of congress are engineers
  - There are no senators who are engineers
- Impact of the political process on funds for engineering education and research
- The important role ECE education and research are playing in economic development



# ASEE Deans Public Policy Colloquium

ASEE Engineering Deans meet annually in February in Washington

- State benefits of engineering education & research
  - Workforce strength and diversity
  - Innovation and prosperity
  - Contributions to national security
- Called for action by members of congress:
  - Requested support for NSF, DoD, DoE, NIH
  - Requested support for NSF and Dept of Education Math and Science programs
- Visited respective state delegations/staff



# Other Public Policy Initiatives

- Efforts by other professional and scientific organizations
- Lobbyist for defense contractors
- Lobbyist for related industries
- Directors of Governmental Affairs or Presidents of universities
- Concerned citizens – in organized groups or as individuals

