August 30, 2021

IEEE-USA
2001 L St., NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your letter concerning the situation of our Afghan allies. Your commitment to their wellbeing and safety is inspiring and much appreciated. We have the opportunity to help highly-trained individuals put their talents and interests to use, to welcome them into our communities, and to showcase how we become stronger as a country when we bring together our unique skills and cultural experiences.

I intend to convene individuals and private sector organizations experienced with at-risk scholars, professional societies, academia, industry, and government agencies to help our Afghan allies land on their feet when they arrive. It is essential that we combine our efforts to find opportunities for our friends and new neighbors that make best use of their substantial skills and talents. I very much hope you will join me when we have that conversation.

The Office of Science and Technology Policy will continue to assist other departments and agencies in identifying and supporting those who remain in Afghanistan beyond August 31. Please do not hesitate to contact our Assistant Directors for International S&T Workforce and International S&T, Amy.M.Nice@ostp.eop.gov and Cole.Donovan@ostp.eop.gov, who can help ensure that the relevant federal task forces are aware of these individuals and given the best chance at transitioning to new opportunities, wherever they may be.

Sincerely,

Eric Lander
Science Advisor to the President and
Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy