

July 12, 2012

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The undersigned organizations call on Congress to pass a bipartisan STEM visa bill this year that establishes a green card program for outstanding STEM advanced degree graduates. Such a reform would allow American companies to retain many foreign students with advanced degrees in STEM fields to work in the U.S. and spur the creation and retention of high paying manufacturing and research jobs here in America.

Each year, graduate students who complete advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) from America's top universities are offered jobs by U.S. companies. Hiring advanced degree STEM professionals is a key to creating and retaining jobs in a variety of sectors in our innovation economy. However, skilled foreign graduates, eligible for visas, are stuck in backlogs for many years. These are highly educated professionals who will create jobs wherever they settle, whether in the U.S. or elsewhere.

A STEM visa reform would prioritize legal immigration status for those earning STEM degrees from American graduate schools, and, in fact, could increase the educational status necessary to obtain already-existing immigrant visas. The employer verification obligation would continue, as under current law, for employers to confirm that qualified American workers are not available. We applaud the work of House Judiciary Committee Chairman, Lamar Smith (R-TX) and others on the Judiciary committee to craft this type of legislation, and note that Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) has already introduced similar legislation (S. 3185) to make this change.

Our organizations appreciate the strong sustained bipartisan congressional work on this critically important issue. We also welcome the ongoing consultation by House and Senate leaders on STEM visa issues with stakeholders.

Together, the undersigned represent many American employers who hire high tech professionals, as well as American high tech employees, higher education, and trade and professional organizations. We urge Congress to work together this year to deliver this critical, timely reform of our legal immigration system – a jobs bill that would not increase the deficit.

Very Respectfully,

National Associations

American Council of Engineering Companies
American Council on International Personnel
American Society for Engineering Education
Business Roundtable
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Compete America Coalition
CompTIA
Consumer Electronics Association
HR Policy Association
IEEE – USA
ImmigrationWorks USA
Information Technology Industry Council
National Association of Manufacturers
National Foreign Trade Council
Partnership for a New American Economy
Precision Machined Products Association
Semiconductor Industry Association
Society for Human Resource Management
TechNet
TechServe Alliance
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Employers

3M
Adobe
Altera Corporation
AMD
Apple
ArcelorMittal USA
Black Hills Corporation
Bloomberg L.P.
Boston Scientific Corporation
Brooks Courier Service, Inc.
CA Technologies
Caterpillar, Inc.
Cargill, Incorporated
Cognizant
Clarkson University
Computer Task Group, Inc.
Concord Servicing Corporation
Cummins Inc.
DuPont
eBay, Inc.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold
Freescale Semiconductor
GlobalFoundries

(Employers continued)

Halliburton
Hewlett-Packard Company
IBM Corporation
Ingersoll Rand Company
Intel Corporation
Interactive Intelligence, Inc.
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Maxim Integrated Products
Microsoft
Mitsubishi International Corporation
Motorola Solutions, Inc.
Olmstead Medical Center
ON Semiconductor
Oracle
Overstock.com, Inc.
Permac Industries
Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.
PMC-Sierra
Praxair, Inc.
Principal Financial Group, Inc.
Research In Motion
Symantec Corporation
Teradata Corporation
Texas Instruments Incorporated
The MathWorks, Inc.
Xerox Corporation

State and Local Associations

Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce
Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Arizona Technology Council
Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Austin Chamber of Commerce
Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire
Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce
Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Connecticut Technology Council
Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
Detroit Regional Chamber
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce

(State and Local Associations continued)

Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition
Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce
Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce
Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce
Greater Louisville Inc.
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Technology Association
Kansas Chamber of Commerce
Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce
Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey Technology Council
New York Technology Council
North Carolina Chamber
North Carolina Technology Association
North Country (New York) Chamber of Commerce
North Dakota Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Portland (Maine) Regional Chamber of Commerce
Prince William (Virginia) Chamber of Commerce
Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce
Rockford Chamber of Commerce
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
South Shore Chamber of Commerce
Tampa Bay Technology Forum
Technology Leadership PAC- California
Tempe Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Reno, Sparks, and Northern Nevada
The Committee of 100 (Delaware)
Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce
Valley Industry & Commerce Association
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber