

June 4, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

As trade associations representing diverse American companies, we strongly urge the Senate to pass the Cantwell-Cornyn amendment to the comprehensive immigration bill. The amendment would better align the merit-based green card proposal and the H-1B reforms with the ability to attract and retain the world's most highly skilled professionals.

The amendment would significantly improve the proposed merit-based green card system and H-1B reforms in a manner that would preserve the integrity of the compromise legislation. It would establish an employer-sponsored merit system to complement the bill's self-sponsored merit-based system and restore the critical H-1B provisions included in last year's Senate immigration bill. It is a strong bi-partisan proposal that will preserve the ability of US employers to determine the critical skill sets needed for global competitiveness and innovation and will make the proposed H-1B reforms more effective.

We strongly support the Cantwell-Cornyn amendment to improve the high skilled provisions in the comprehensive immigration bill and urge its passage as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Information Technology Industry Council  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Financial Services Roundtable  
Business Roundtable  
National Association of Manufacturers  
Technology CEO Council  
National Venture Capitalist Association  
Business Software Alliance  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
TechNet  
Information Technology Association of America  
AeA  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
HR Policy Committee  
American Council on International Personnel  
Electronic Industries Alliance  
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International  
Software & Information Industry Association  
Computer and Communications Industry Association  
Society for Human Resource Management  
Association for Competitive Technology  
Northern Virginia Technology Council