

July 17, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

As U.S. employers, education institutions, and trade associations representing the future of American innovation, we are writing to urge your support for three bills that will make necessary incremental adjustments to the employment-based (EB) green card system. The measures – H.R. 6039, H.R. 5921 and H.R. 5882 – enjoy bipartisan support and should be enacted without delay this year.

America's scientific and technological leadership is at a crossroads. To remain the world leader in innovation, U.S. employers must have access to much-needed and sought-after highly educated talent – including scientists, researchers, teachers and medical professionals. Foreign-born professionals make great contributions to the U.S. economy and create good, high-paying jobs for all Americans.

U.S. employers rely on EB green cards to keep foreign-born talent living, working and innovating in America. Yet, despite the critical importance of these visas, Congress has failed to address the well documented backlogs in the EB green card system that leave some foreign-born, highly educated professionals waiting over six to 10 years to receive a permanent resident visa.

The three bills will address many shortcomings in the EB green card system. For example:

- H.R. 6039, by exempting highly educated, foreign-born students earning an advanced degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics from a U.S. university from the annual EB green card limit, would help U.S. employers retain these talented individuals in the U.S. workforce. For example, foreign nationals comprise half of the master's and 70 percent of the Ph.D.s in electrical engineering from U.S. universities.
- H.R. 5921 will help put an end to multi-year wait times by eliminating unduly restrictive per country limits on EB green cards.
- H.R. 5882 will help to reduce visa backlogs by "recapturing" EB green cards from prior years that went unused due to government processing delays and making them available immediately to those who meet the requirements.

Without these incremental reforms, U.S. employers will continue to be crippled in the global competition for the world's best talent, as more and more extremely valuable professionals from around the world take their education and abilities to competitors abroad.

While permanent reforms for the EB green card system will be critical to U.S. employers' long-term ability to hire and retain key worldwide talent, H.R. 6039, H.R. 5921 and H.R. 5882 are common sense, incremental reforms that should be enacted this year. We again urge your support for these important measures.

Sincerely,

Accudata Technologies	Bechtel Corporation
Adicio, Inc.	Bion Healthcare Global
Advanced Micro Devices	BITS, A division of The Financial Services Roundtable
Advent Solar, Inc.	Borealis Ventures
AeA	Boston Scientific Corp.
Agilent Technologies	Business Roundtable
Akamai Technologies	Business Software Alliance
Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers	Cadence Design Systems
Altria Group, Inc.	Case New Holland
American Council of Engineering Companies	Cisco Systems Inc.
American Council on International Personnel	Clearpoint Agency, Inc.
American Immigration Lawyers Association	CMEA Ventures
ANADIGICS, Inc.	Coalition to Improve Healthcare Staffing
Analog Devices	Coalition of Service Industries
Anritsu Company	Coinstar, Inc.
Applied Materials Association of American Universities	CompTIA
Association of American Universities Authoria	Computer & Communications Industry Association
Axian, Inc.	Cost Advisors, Inc.
Ayoka - Made in USA Software Services	Cummins Inc.

Data Foundry, Inc.	Ingersoll Rand Company
Eastridge Infotech	Intel Corporation
eBay, Inc.	Intellectual Ventures
Echelon Corporation	International Rectifier
EDS	Iron Mountain
EFJohnson Technologies Inc	Isobar
EMCORE Corporation	Jacket Micro Devices, Inc.
EnerNOC, Inc.	KPMG LLP
Entertainment Software Association	Llesiant, Inc.
Exxon Mobil Corporation	Lloyd Healthcare
F5 Networks	Microsoft Corporation
Firstwave Technologies, Inc.	Molecular, Inc.
Frye Electronics, Inc.	Motorola Inc.
Genentech	NAFSA: Association of International Educators
Global Personnel Alliance	
Google, Inc.	NASDAQ OMX Group National Association of Manufacturers
Greenough Communications	
Hewlett-Packard Company	National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
IBM Corporation	National Foreign Trade Council
iCAD, Inc.	National Semiconductor
Immigration Voice	National Venture Capital Association
ImTech, Inc.	NebuAd, Inc.
Information Technology Association of	NetApp
America (ITAA) Information Technology Industry Council	Nu-Trek, Inc.

NXP Semiconductors USA Inc	Stolt-Nielsen USA Inc.
OMRON Scientific Technologies, Inc.	Sun Microsystems
ON Semiconductor Corporation	Symantec
Oracle Corporation	Synaptics
Palm	Synopsys
Pariveda Solutions, Inc.	Tango Networks
Philips Oral Healthcare	TechNet
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Teradata Corporation
Principal Life Insurance Company	Tessera
Qualcomm	Tetrasoft
Quest Software, Inc.	Texas Instruments
Seagate Technology	The Boeing Company
Semiconductor Equipment & Materials	The Coca-Cola Company
International (SEMI)	The MathWorks
Semiconductor Industry Association	T-Mobile
Seymour Duncan	TriQuint Semiconductor
SimpleTuition, Inc.	Tyco Electronics
SkillSoft	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Society for Human Resource Management	USA*Engage
Software & Information Industry Association	Varian Medical Systems
SolidWorks Corporation SpikeSource	VASCO Data Security International, Inc.
	Yahoo!