

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<br>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<br>Association of American Universities | CompTIA  |
| Association of American Universities<br>Authoria          | Computer & Communications Industry<br>Association        |
| Axian, Inc.   | Cost Advisors, Inc.                                      |
| Ayoka - Made in USA Software Services                     | Cummins Inc.   |

| Data Foundry, Inc.  | Ingersoll Rand Company  |
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| Eastridge Infotech  | Intel Corporation   |
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| 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<br>National Association of Manufacturers             |
| Greenough Communications                                  |   |
| Hewlett-Packard Company                                   | National Association of State Universities and<br>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)<br>Information Technology Industry Council | Nu-Trek, Inc.   |

| NXP Semiconductors USA Inc                  | Stolt-Nielsen USA Inc.                  |
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| 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                  |
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