



January 13, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
235 Canon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Speaker Pelosi,

We are pleased by the focus of your upcoming Democratic retreat on the topics of innovation and job creation and greatly appreciate your leadership in this area. These two themes are mutually reinforcing, and sustained job creation can only be the result of constant innovation by the American worker and business.

Just last month, eighty-seven CEOs of the leading technology companies in the United States sent a list of recommendations to President Obama before his economic summit, outlining specific priorities to consider as policymakers seek to drive innovation that will result in further good paying jobs in the high-tech sector. As you have long recognized, job creation within the high-tech sector will continue to play a leading role in U.S. economic recovery. To that end, Congress should take up the following policy recommendations:

Sustaining Momentum from the American Recovery Fund

While the Obama Administration releases remaining ARRA funds, we urge Congress to build upon this momentum and develop comprehensive plans to take on three key growth initiatives: increased broadband deployment and adoption, universal health IT, and investments in Smart Grid and renewable energy. We believe that the relevant committee chairs in the House should continue their work to ensure these three elements are addressed and successfully implemented for the long-term benefit of the United States and its citizens.

Cultivating the Worlds Best and Brightest

For the United States to remain a world leader in innovation, we need to increase America's domestic pipeline of highly skilled workers, while also attracting and retaining the world's best and brightest workers. Chairmen Miller, Conyers, and Lofgren have been strong advocates of efforts to achieve these goals, and we urge you to advance the necessary education and immigration initiatives to make this a reality.

Create Certainty to Spur Investments

We urge you to expand and extend the research and development credit which has already expired. Congress took a modest step by slightly expanding the credit in the last Congress, and we encourage you to make a further expansion as soon as possible. We encourage you to work with the Ways and Means Committee on hearings and potential legislation to bring our tax rates in line with our global competitors' rates, and to do so in a deficit neutral manner. Chairmen Rangel and Neal have expressed strong interest in advancing these goals, and we intend to work with them to develop policies that encourage investment in the US.

Restore our Global Economic Leadership

We were very supportive of the successful effort to expand Trade Adjustment Assistance in the ARRA, and have been pleased by renewed energy channeled into enforcing existing trade agreements, such as the WTO's Information Technology Agreement. While helping dislocated workers and enforcing trade agreements are very important, we also want to see further progress on meaningful trade legislation. We hope you will support President Obama's calls to pass the pending Free Trade Agreements, such as the Korea FTA, along with his call to expand the Trans-Pacific Partnership. In addition, we encourage the promotion of trade in green technologies with a comprehensive Environmental Goods and Services Agreement and conclusion of a strong Doha Round. We must continue to open markets around the world and create jobs by expanding exports.

We believe all of these recommendations can and should be advanced this year, and we stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to make significant progress.

Sincerely,

Dean C. Garfield
President & CEO