

115th Congress Legislative Priorities: A Blueprint for American Innovation



ITI's mission is to empower policymakers with information thus enabling innovation that improves lives, create jobs, and drives economic growth. ITI's policy objectives focus on expanding opportunity and growth at home, maintaining and opening markets around the world, and driving innovation on a global scale.

Spur Economic Growth and Job Creation

Update the Tax Code: Outdated and uncompetitive, the U.S. tax code is in need of a major overhaul. Congress should pass pro-growth tax reform legislation that includes: a lower competitive corporate tax rate, a market-based international tax system, and robust incentives for innovation and research and development (R&D).



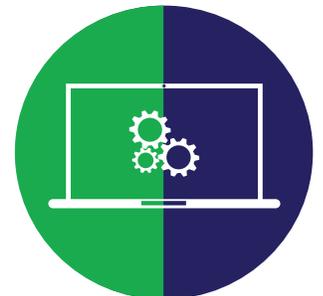
Market Access for Technology Products and Services: Congress and the administration should pursue a forward-thinking trade agenda that opens new markets; levels the playing field for U.S. technology products and services worldwide; and aggressively responds to unfair trade restrictions, including prohibitions on forced localization of goods, services, or data.

Streamline and Reform the Acquisition and Procurement Process: Federal agencies spend approximately 80 percent of their total technology budget maintaining outdated legacy computer systems. Congress should reform the way the federal government procures and utilizes technology to ensure all government users keep pace with innovation and modern solutions.

Modernize U.S. Transportation and Infrastructure: Our nation's infrastructure is in dire need of an upgrade. Investing in infrastructure that integrates both physical and digital elements can increase economic productivity by 60 percent when compared to investment in traditional infrastructure. Congress should ensure infrastructure funding fully leverages the significant economic and societal benefits that technology and smart infrastructure can offer.

Strengthen the Skills of America's Workforce

Invest in the Science and Technology Workforce: Computing occupations are the leading source of wage growth in the United States and account for two-thirds of all expected jobs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Congress should continue to promote appropriate skills alignment and advance education and research programs in STEM, computer science, and career and technical education, which are essential for preparing our domestic workforce for the jobs of tomorrow.



Welcome Innovators: By 2018, the United States will face a shortfall of 223,000 workers in STEM fields. Congress should improve the ability of companies to recruit and retain highly educated foreign graduates and professionals, regardless of country of origin, to meet current hiring needs and supplement our talented U.S. workforce.

Foster Trusted Networks

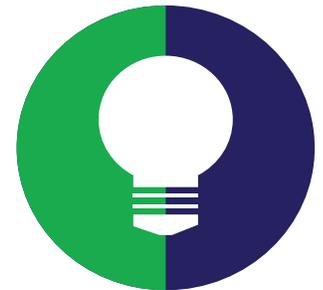


Protect Data and Restore User Trust: Congress should update the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) to require law enforcement to obtain a warrant in order to access private electronic communications such as email. Congress should also recognize the continued importance of encryption technologies as a critical tool in the defense against cyber attacks, and the potentially catastrophic detriment to digital, physical, and personal security should this tool be weakened by design mandates.

Increase Cyber Defenses: Cybersecurity efforts should be dynamic and flexible in order to leverage new technologies, business models, and respond to ever-changing threats. Congress should promote and leverage existing public-private partnerships and voluntary industry initiatives that are technology neutral and reflect the global nature of cyberspace and supply chains to advance both security and protect privacy.

Promote Domestic Innovation

Advance Patent Reform: All too often technology companies must divert resources from their core business to defend themselves against abusive and costly patent litigation. Congress should advance patent reform legislation to safeguard the continued success and viability of the U.S. patent system, while simultaneously protecting innovations that spur economic growth and keep the United States globally competitive.



Promote Broadband Investment and Spectrum Availability: Broadband has become a *de facto* requirement for Americans to access essential services, advance their education, apply for jobs, and for countless other purposes. Congress and the administration should: (1) advance efforts to update the Communications Act to incentivize broadband deployment and access; (2) protect innovative internet-enabled applications, services, and business opportunities; and (3) make more spectrum available for mobile broadband with flexible rules to maximize the most efficient use of that limited resource.



Encourage Energy Efficiency: Technological advancements are driving significant improvements in energy efficiency and sustainability. Congress should enact legislation that promotes the use of technology products and services to improve energy efficiency and increase cost savings, particularly in federal data centers, smart transportation and infrastructure, and building management systems.