2013 ITI Congressional Priorities

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) is the premier advocacy and policy organization for the world's leading innovation companies. ITI navigates the constantly changing relationships between policymakers, companies, and non-governmental organizations, providing creative solutions that advance the development and use of technology around the world. We develop first-rate advocacy strategies and market-specific approaches. And we deliver results.

Our industry's agenda for the 113th Congress reflects our belief that the new Congress can be an engine of policy innovation and enable economic renewal and national optimism.

U.S. Job Growth & Competitiveness

Competitive Corporate Tax Policy
Accelerate advocacy and education efforts focused on modernizing the antiquated U.S. corporate tax system to attract and retain domestic investment, and generate new economic activity. Key priorities will be adoption of a market-based/territorial system, reduction of corporate tax rate, and strengthened innovation incentives, such as the R&D credit.

Effective Cybersecurity Policies
Congressional action on cybersecurity should focus on identified needs including cyber threat information sharing, increased cybersecurity R&D, updating cybercrime laws, and Federal Information Sharing Management Act (FISMA) reform.   Legislation should avoid placing unrealistic and costly requirements on global ICT supply chains. Cybersecurity policies that will yield the most secure networks while facilitating private-sector innovation and U.S. global competitiveness are those that 1) promote and leverage industry solutions, 2) are based on risk management, 3) are flexible to adapt to rapid change, and 4) are consistent with global norms, reflecting the global nature of cyberspace.

Develop and Recruit the Best and Brightest
To ensure the U.S. economy continues to develop and attract talented entrepreneurs and innovators requires 1) policies that create responsive, robust programs in K-12 and higher education that focus on science, technology, engineering and math; and 2) reforms in our high-skilled immigration system that enable U.S.-based employers to utilize temporary nonimmigrant and permanent resident visas to build a skilled workforce that advances domestic innovation.

Deliver on Benefits of New Spectrum for Mobile Connectivity
Continue to advance policies aimed at freeing up underutilized government spectrum. The incentive auction legislation that passed in 2012 will make available, likely, 120 MHz at best. Additional policies are needed to continue freeing up underutilized government spectrum, which offers the next best opportunity to meet the goals of the National Broadband Plan, including making 300 MHz available for mobile broadband by 2015, and 500 MHz available by 2020.

Advance Future Benefits from Global Cloud Computing
Consistent policies are needed to advance the opportunities provided by cloud computing and machine-to-machine communication, including enabling unrestricted transfer of data across borders and promoting global standards that avoid fragmented, unpredictable national requirements.

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Commitment to Basic Research
Investments in public-private basic research programs, including those at leading U.S. universities, are essential to long-term competitiveness, innovation, and new business and job creation through the commercialization of new products and services.

Benefits to the Consumer

Consumer Privacy
Continued work between Congress and industry to educate consumers on how data are used and stored, how consumers can protect themselves when sharing data online, and in developing industry practices to provide transparent information to consumers will benefit the public without stifling innovation.

Protect Global Internet Regime
Regardless of the outcome of the December 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications in Dubai, a longer-term industry effort is needed to ensure that Internet governance and related standards and cybersecurity continue to benefit Internet users.

Drive "Smart" Energy Solutions
Accelerate several initiatives to promote policies and actions that encourage "smart" solutions for energy efficiency and economic development and that reward intelligent energy-efficiency solutions based on a holistic-systems approach rather than on an isolated product-by-product basis.

Engage on Proposals to Restrict Exports of Used Electronics
Maintain engagement with Congressional leaders on legislation regulating electronics recycling and exports to preserve the ability of our member companies to continue their legitimate reuse and recycling practices.

Global Market Access

Expanded ITA
Underscore with members of Congress the commercial benefits of expanded product coverage of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) with an aim to ensuring ongoing negotiations conclude in 2013. Also work with Congress to ensure Russia fulfills its commitment to join the ITA.

Forced Localization
Undertake strategic outreach and coordination between industry and the congressional and executive branches to respond to the growing use of forced localization policies in China, India, and Brazil, among others.

Regional Trade Agreements
Support successful conclusion of the TPP negotiations and any legislation that may be necessary for its passage in Congress. The TPP should include strong provisions for next-generation-trade-agreement areas intended to harvest the full economic benefits of the Internet.