

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Inhofe
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Levin and Inhofe:

On behalf of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) and Business Software Alliance (BSA), we write to offer support for two proposed amendments addressing federal information technology (IT) procurement that may be considered as the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act moves to the Senate floor this week. In particular, we urge the inclusion of the amendment by Senators Tom Udall and Jerry Moran, and the amendment by Senators Michael Bennet and Tom Coburn.

Federal IT Savings, Accountability, and Transparency (Udall/Moran)

The technology sector supports the Federal Information Technology Savings, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2013, an amendment offered by Mr. Udall and Mr. Moran. The amendment focuses on eliminating duplication and waste in the federal IT acquisition process by restoring the authorities of agency Chief Information Officers (CIO's). ITI and BSA support the amendment's consolidation of the position at each agency to improve management of IT investment decisions, reduce redundancy, and drive efficiency across federal agencies.

In addition, the Udall/Moran amendment will clarify many of the intended authorities given to CIO's in the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996, including the budgetary powers necessary to manage complex, enterprise-wide IT systems across their agencies.

Data Center Consolidation (Bennet/Coburn)

Promoting smart, efficient use of our resources, particularly through use of information and communications technology, is a top priority for the tech sector. ITI and BSA support the policies in this amendment that will create opportunities to reduce costs for the federal government by designing energy efficient data centers using efficient information and communications technology. With improved energy efficiency, data centers can achieve substantial savings for the federal government by generating significantly more work per unit of energy consumed than they do currently. This improved efficiency will bring about large reductions in the total cost of ownership of government processes and operations and will generate taxpayer savings.

The Bennet/Coburn Amendment will take steps in this direction to ensure the federal government uses its resources wisely by optimizing, reconfiguring, and closing, where necessary, inefficient federal data centers.

These amendments address much-needed legislative fixes that will strengthen national security and have a positive impact on the technology sector. As such, we commend Senators Udall, Moran, Bennet, and Coburn for introducing the amendments, and urge their adoption in the final bill.

Very respectfully yours,



Dean C. Garfield
President & CEO



Victoria A. Espinel
President and CEO

CC: The Honorable Tom Udall;
The Honorable Jerry Moran;
The Honorable Michael Bennet;
The Honorable Tom Coburn