

June 21, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), I write to express our strong support for S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. **Given the importance of high-skilled immigration reform to the high-tech community, we may consider scoring votes in support of cloture or final passage of S. 744 in our 113th Congressional Voting Guide. We also may score votes in opposition to any amendments that would render our high-skilled visa programs unworkable, including, but not limited to: the Brown Amendment 1311, Sanders/Grassley Amendment 1284, and Grassley Amendments 1547, 1548, 1549 and 1550.**

Our immigration system is outdated, broken, and does not serve our national interest. Highly skilled workers complement our extremely talented and innovative U.S. workforce, resulting in the creation of new industries, new jobs, and new opportunities for the U.S. economy. We are pleased that S. 744 seeks to make a number of long-sought reforms to our legal immigration system, including:

- Additional green cards for advanced degree graduates in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) from U.S. colleges and universities;
- The recapture of unused green cards over the past two decades, which will help eliminate the current employment-based visa backlog;
- Repeal of the highly discriminatory per-country limits on employer-sponsored visas;
- Increase in the annual H-1B visa cap from 65,000 to 115,000, among other reforms; and,
- Increased visa fees targeted to develop and build our domestic STEM workforce by supporting STEM education programs in the United States.

The bill also strikes a fair balance between protecting American workers and enabling American businesses to access the best talent in the world to work in the U.S. and create jobs here in America.

On behalf of ITI's member companies, I thank you and your colleagues for bringing Congress one major step closer to reforming our outdated employment-based immigration system. Immigration is innovation. Every day that goes by without immigration reform is another day when new jobs and new industries start in foreign countries instead of on American shores.

We look forward to working with you to approve S. 744 and advance immigration reform to enactment by Congress.

Very respectfully yours,



Dean Garfield
President & CEO