

October 12, 2012

Mr. Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.
The Honorable Michael D. McCurry
Co-Chairs
Commission on Presidential Debates
1200 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Ms. Candy Crowley
CNN
820 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Mr. Bob Schieffer
CBS News
2020 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

** Delivered via email **

Dear Ms. Crowley, Mr. Schieffer, Mr. Fahrenkopf, and Mr. McCurry:

In one opinion survey after another, American voters state that job creation and the strength of the nation's economy are at the top of their list of concerns in this election. Voters want to hear new ideas from the presidential candidates on how they would accelerate U.S. economic growth and get more Americans back on the job.

Representing many of the world's largest, most innovative companies, we understand how important it is to create an environment in which businesses can innovate, expand, and hire new employees. Our members are the economic drivers of the 21st century, creating products that not only change lives, but also create jobs.

While the unemployment rate is declining and the private sector has experienced positive job growth for several months, the pace of recovery is frustratingly slow for everyone. At the same time, our competitors abroad are wasting no time in catching up to, and in some instances, passing the United States in economic vitality. Once the top-ranked nation in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, the United States this year has fallen to seventh place. Put simply, too many people are out of work and we are not growing nearly fast enough.

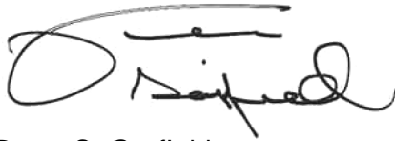
For the final two debates, we urge you to increase the focus on job creation and economic growth. In Denver and again in Danville, when asked about their economic ideas, the candidates resorted to speaking in sound bites, and said little to reassure both the American people and American businesses that they have plans to accelerate growth. The candidates should have the opportunity to explain, with detail, how their plans and priorities would put an end to the stagnating malaise that, to date, has defined the post-recession economic recovery. While other issues are certainly critical to our country, none are as central to this election as this.

The final two presidential debates present unique opportunities for the public to glean a greater understanding of a candidate's governing strategy. The debates also offer a chance for moderators to ask the tough questions that candidates often hope to avoid. We urge you to ask questions that will allow the candidates to articulate their specific plans on how they would grow the economy.

We look forward to the remaining the debates, and are happy to answer any additional questions you might have.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dean C. Garfield
President and CEO, ITI

About ITI

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. Visit itic.org to learn more.