

Coalition Members

Altria Group, Inc.

September 27, 2007

American Council of Engineering
Companies

American Council on
International Personnel

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives

American Immigration
Lawyers Association

H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Analog Devices

Business Roundtable

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Business Software Alliance

On behalf of Compete America, a coalition of corporations, trade associations, and educators, and other undersigned organizations and companies, we urge Congress to remain focused on taking steps this year to address the highly-skilled immigration crisis facing U.S. employers by reforming the H-1B visa and employment-based green card systems.

Cisco Systems Inc.

CompTIA

Genentech

Global Personnel Alliance

Google, Inc.

As you know, highly educated foreign professionals play a significant role in allowing the United States to maintain an innovative edge over its global competitors.

Hewlett-Packard Company

However, our outdated immigration system has made it harder and harder for qualified foreign talent to come to and remain in this country and contribute to our nation's intellectual capital and economic well-being, which, ultimately, poses a serious threat to our global leadership position.

Information Technology
Association of America

Intel Corporation

International Rectifier

Consider that in April of this year, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) received over 133,000 H-1B visa applications for only 65,000 available slots for fiscal year 2008 – on the very first day applications could be accepted. This arbitrary, unrealistic cap sends the message that America's doors are closed and that these individuals, many of whom have been educated in U.S. universities, should look for opportunity elsewhere. In most cases, those opportunities will be with our foreign competitors.

Microsoft Corporation

Motorola Inc.

NAFSA: Association of
International Educators

National Association of
Manufacturers

National Semiconductor

Oracle Corporation

QUALCOMM Inc.

Semiconductor Equipment
& Materials International (SEMI)

Semiconductor Industry
Association

Society for Human Resource
Management

The H-1B visa program is often used as a temporary step toward permanent resident status for top talent, with the ultimate goal being the attainment of an employment-based (EB) green card. Yet, the shortage of available EB green cards and the massive backlog of pending applications are equally as dire as the H-1B shortage. Those seeking an EB green card can face delays of up to five years or more, leaving them in professional limbo. Furthermore, the existing backlog serves as a major impediment for companies' recruitment and retention efforts of qualified professionals who wish to remain and work in the United States.

Software & Information Industry
Association

Policymakers have recognized the important contributions of these individuals and the imperative of reforming our highly-skilled immigration system. We were pleased to see these issues addressed as part of the comprehensive immigration reform legislation debate in the Senate, and were disappointed when, in the end, it failed to pass a final bill with these provisions. Despite this outcome, we remain optimistic that there are

Sun Microsystems Inc.

TechNet

Texas Instruments

The Boeing Company

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The Coca-Cola Company

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

further opportunities for action on these issues this year. We understand that the House will not be taking up a comprehensive immigration reform bill but would urge you to work with your colleagues to identify other appropriate legislative vehicles for alleviating this growing crisis.

We greatly appreciate your strong commitment to improving the competitiveness of the United States. Over two years ago you traveled across the country to work directly with leaders in the technology community to create *The Innovation Agenda*. Since then, you have demonstrated your commitment to keep America competitive in the world economy and you have recognized that allowing the best and brightest minds to come to the U.S. is an important component in achieving this goal. We understand you have many competing public policy priorities to address in the coming months and hope that highly-skilled immigration reform will remain at the top of your list.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering
Companies
American Council of International
Personnel
Actel
Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.
AeA
Agilent Technologies, Inc.
American Immigration Lawyers
Association
Altria Group, Inc.
American Staffing Association
Analog Devices
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and
Industry
Authoria
Axcelis Technologies
Broadcom Corporation
Business Roundtable
Business Software Alliance
Cabot Microelectronics Corporation
Cargill, Incorporated
Caterpillar Inc.
Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce
Cisco Systems Inc.
College and University Professional
Association for Human Resources
(CUPA-HR)
Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
CompTIA
Cummins Inc.

Cymer, Inc.
Deloitte & Touche USA, LLP
Detroit Regional Chamber
Echelon Corporation
EDS
Exponent
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Fairchild Semiconductor
Freescale
General Mills
Genetech, Inc.
Global Personnel Alliance
GNI
Google, Inc.
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Hewlett-Packard Company
HR Policy Association
IBM
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Ingersoll Rand Company
Infineon Technologies North America
Information Technology Association of
America
Information Technology Industry Council
Integrated Device Technology, Inc.
Intel Corporation
International Rectifier
Jazz Semiconductor
KPMG LLP
Laurdan Associates, Inc.

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Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce
McAllen Chamber of Commerce
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Micron Technologies, Inc.
Microsoft Corporation
Mitsubishi
Motorola, Inc.
NAFSA: Association of International
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National Association of Manufacturers
National Foreign Trade Council
National Semiconductor Corporation
Network Appliance, Inc
Nokia, Inc.
ON Semiconductor
Oracle Corporation
Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc
Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of
Commerce
PPG Industries
Qualcomm, Inc.
Red Hat, Inc.
Reed Elsevier, Inc.
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce

SC Johnson
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials
International (SEMI)
Semiconductor Industry Association
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Software & Information Industry Association
Society for Human Resource Management
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Stillwater Chamber of Commerce
Sun Microsystems, Inc.
Sunvolt Nanosystems, Inc.
Synopsys, Inc.
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Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber
TechNet
Technology CEO Council
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Tennessee Chamber of Commerce
Teradyne, Inc.
Texas Association of Business
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U.S. Chamber of Commerce
USHRES
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