

June 4, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

As trade associations representing diverse American companies, we strongly urge the Senate to pass the Cantwell-Cornyn amendment to the comprehensive immigration bill. The amendment would better align the merit-based green card proposal and the H-1B reforms with the ability to attract and retain the world's most highly skilled professionals.

The amendment would significantly improve the proposed merit-based green card system and H-1B reforms in a manner that would preserve the integrity of the compromise legislation. It would establish an employer-sponsored merit system to complement the bill's self-sponsored merit-based system and restore the critical H-1B provisions included in last year's Senate immigration bill. It is a strong bi-partisan proposal that will preserve the ability of US employers to determine the critical skill sets needed for global competitiveness and innovation and will make the proposed H-1B reforms more effective.

We strongly support the Cantwell-Cornyn amendment to improve the high skilled provisions in the comprehensive immigration bill and urge its passage as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Information Technology Industry Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Financial Services Roundtable
Business Roundtable
National Association of Manufacturers
Technology CEO Council
National Venture Capital Association
Business Software Alliance
American Council of Engineering Companies
TechNet
Information Technology Association of America
AeA
Semiconductor Industry Association
HR Policy Association
American Council on International Personnel
Electronic Industries Alliance
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International
Software & Information Industry Association
Computer and Communications Industry Association
Society for Human Resource Management
Association for Competitive Technology
Northern Virginia Technology Council