



The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

October 19, 2005

Dear Chairman Specter,

On behalf of the nearly 1,200 U.S. high-tech companies represented by the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA), I am writing to urge your continued support for the proposed Senate Judiciary Committee reconciliation bill, without amendment. The planned immigration package would provide near-term relief for the shortage of highly educated workers. This shortage frequently leads to disruptions of business for our industry, and we believe that passage of this legislation is crucial to defending the competitiveness of U.S. companies.

Gaining access to highly specialized talent from around the world has long been an important component of U.S. competitiveness, and it is imperative that Congress not lose sight of the value provided by these educated workers, especially in the science, technology, engineering and math fields. The timely and efficient movement of people across borders allows U.S. technology companies to lead in today's global markets, which translates into more U.S. investment and jobs that contribute to a healthy economy and a higher quality of life.

The bill to be considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee would meet the Committee's obligations by raising \$300 million over five years, while at the same time offering relief to the green card and H1-B systems. While increased fees such as those proposed can be problematic for smaller companies, the much-needed relief included in the bill is necessary for our industry. The bill would make changes to the employment-based visa system that would streamline the process for workers who, in most cases, are already in the U.S. but mired in the long green card process. It would also allow for the recapturing of employment-based and H1-B visa numbers authorized by Congress but not used in previous years.

As you know, the H1-B cap was reached two months before the upcoming fiscal year even begins, and there is a shortage of business-based green cards. The relief provided by the proposed Senate bill is only the first step in the necessary comprehensive reform of the employment-based immigration system, but it is a vital step at this time. EIA is committed to working closely with both the Senate and House to develop a balanced approach to the visa process, one that allows the U.S. to maintain a qualified workforce, sustain business with overseas customers and attract the best and brightest minds. At stake for the U.S. is the ability to innovate and compete with the rest of the world.

As you consider the proposed legislation in the Judiciary Committee, I hope you will support the bill, without amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave McCurdy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave McCurdy
President & CEO