Software & Information Industry Association
1090 Vermont Ave NW Sixth Floor
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January 29, 2013

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: SIIA Strongly Supports the Innovation Act

Dear Senators Hatch, Klobuchar, Rubio and Coons:

On behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), thank you for sponsoring the "Immigration Innovation Act." This legislation would enable U.S. companies to more effectively attract and retain the best innovators from around the world. Your leadership on this issue presents an important step forward in the effort to reform U.S. immigration laws.

As you know, the U.S. IT industry—and the American economy more broadly—has always benefitted from the contributions of the highly-educated, regardless of where they were born. Highly skilled foreign-born innovators, researchers, medical professionals, engineers and entrepreneurs help drive our economy and create quality U.S. jobs. In fact, many globally-leading companies, and major U.S. employers, were founded here in the U.S., at least in part by foreign-born citizens. This prominent list includes the likes of Yahoo!, Google, eBay and Intel.

By increasing the supply of H-1B visas, increasing the allotment of employment-based green cards and enabling foreign students trained at U.S. universities to remain and work in the U.S., the Innovation Act will enable continued U.S. innovation, job creation and economic expansion in a worldwide economy.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this very important issue. We look forward to working with you to support enactment of this legislation as part of comprehensive immigration reform this year.

Sincerely yours,

Ken Wasch
President

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