



Accelerating Innovation in
Technology, Data & Media

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Mr. Larry Kudlow
Director
National Economic Council
White House

March 19, 2020

Mr. Michael Kratsios
Chief Technology Officer of the United States
The White House

Dear Messrs Kudlow and Kratsios:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA). Our association represents roughly 800 large, medium and small companies and organizations engaged in the responsible production, delivery, administration, utilization, and sale of content, media, software and data for the financial services, specialized information and education markets. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to the leading companies that are setting the pace for the digital age.

I would like to first express our strong support and appreciation for the Administration's efforts to address the coronavirus outbreak. SIIA and our member companies are working with the Administration on a variety of responses including making relevant scientific publishing available more quickly, providing online learning and telework opportunities, and encouraging the proper legal and regulatory environment for platforms to provide accurate information. We are proud of our industry's response to date and stand ready to help in other ways to support our nation during this unique public health crisis.

The outbreak also underscores the critical need to appoint an Ambassador to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The OECD's health-related work is not widely known, but it is important. The OECD's digital, economic, education, innovation, regulatory reform, science and technology and tax work impact SIIA member companies and overall U.S. economic competitiveness. The excellent U.S.- inspired OECD Artificial Intelligence principles, for example, will hopefully have an impact on spurring the development of innovative AI applications in the health sector.

It is true that international organizations are often challenging for the United States and for U.S. stakeholders. But the organizations are critical in ensuring that U.S. interests are served. We appreciate, for example, the recent diplomatic success the U.S. enjoyed in persuading many countries to vote for the election of Singapore's Daren Tang to be the next head of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The United States has not had an Ambassador to the OECD for over three years. Given the OECD's importance on so many critical issues of importance to SIIA and our member companies, such as digital taxation, privacy principles, AI principles, innovation policy, and more, U.S. economic



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diplomacy would be strengthened with a U.S. Ambassador at the OECD. SIIA therefore urges the Administration to work as quickly as is feasible in these challenging times to appoint a Senate-confirmed Ambassador to the OECD as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Joseph', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Joseph
President and CEO
Software & Information Industry Association

CC: Mr. Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
Department of State

CC: Mr. Andrei Iancu
Under Secretary of Commerce and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark
Office
United States Patent and Trademark Office