

July 17, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

As U.S. employers, education institutions, and trade associations representing the future of American innovation, we are writing to urge your support for three bills that will make necessary incremental adjustments to the employment-based (EB) green card system. The measures – H.R. 6039, H.R. 5921 and H.R. 5882 – enjoy bipartisan support and should be enacted without delay this year.

America's scientific and technological leadership is at a crossroads. To remain the world leader in innovation, U.S. employers must have access to much-needed and sought-after highly educated talent – including scientists, researchers, teachers and medical professionals. Foreign-born professionals make great contributions to the U.S. economy and create good, high-paying jobs for all Americans.

U.S. employers rely on EB green cards to keep foreign-born talent living, working and innovating in America. Yet, despite the critical importance of these visas, Congress has failed to address the well documented backlogs in the EB green card system that leave some foreign-born, highly educated professionals waiting over six to 10 years to receive a permanent resident visa.

The three bills will address many shortcomings in the EB green card system. For example:

- H.R. 6039, by exempting highly educated, foreign-born students earning an advanced degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics from a U.S. university from the annual EB green card limit, would help U.S. employers retain these talented individuals in the U.S. workforce. For example, foreign nationals comprise half of the master's and 70 percent of the Ph.D.s in electrical engineering from U.S. universities.
- H.R. 5921 will help put an end to multi-year wait times by eliminating unduly restrictive per country limits on EB green cards.
- H.R. 5882 will help to reduce visa backlogs by “recapturing” EB green cards from prior years that went unused due to government processing delays and making them available immediately to those who meet the requirements.

Without these incremental reforms, U.S. employers will continue to be crippled in the global competition for the world's best talent, as more and more extremely valuable professionals from around the world take their education and abilities to competitors abroad.

While permanent reforms for the EB green card system will be critical to U.S. employers' long-term ability to hire and retain key worldwide talent, H.R. 6039, H.R. 5921 and H.R. 5882 are common sense, incremental reforms that should be enacted this year. We again urge your support for these important measures.

Sincerely,

Accudata Technologies

Adicio, Inc.

Advanced Micro Devices

Advent Solar, Inc.

AeA

Agilent Technologies

Akamai Technologies

Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers

Altria Group, Inc.

American Council of Engineering Companies

American Council on International Personnel

American Immigration Lawyers Association

ANADIGICS, Inc.

Analog Devices

Anritsu Company

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Association of American Universities

Authoria

Axian, Inc.

Ayoka - Made in USA Software Services

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BITS, A division of The Financial Services Roundtable

Borealis Ventures

Boston Scientific Corp.

Business Roundtable

Business Software Alliance

Cadence Design Systems

Case New Holland

Cisco Systems Inc.

Clearpoint Agency, Inc.

CMEA Ventures

Coalition to Improve Healthcare Staffing

Coalition of Service Industries

Coinstar, Inc.

CompTIA

Computer & Communications Industry Association

Cost Advisors, Inc.

Cummins Inc.

Data Foundry, Inc.	Ingersoll Rand Company
Eastridge Infotech	Intel Corporation
eBay, Inc.	Intellectual Ventures
Echelon Corporation	International Rectifier
EDS	Iron Mountain
EFJohnson Technologies Inc	Isobar
EMCORE Corporation	Jacket Micro Devices, Inc.
EnerNOC, Inc.	KPMG LLP
Entertainment Software Association	Llesiant, Inc.
Exxon Mobil Corporation	Lloyd Healthcare
F5 Networks	Microsoft Corporation
Firstwave Technologies, Inc.	Molecular, Inc.
Frye Electronics, Inc.	Motorola Inc.
Genentech	NAFSA: Association of International Educators
Global Personnel Alliance	NASDAQ OMX Group
Google, Inc.	National Association of Manufacturers
Greenough Communications	National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
Hewlett-Packard Company	National Foreign Trade Council
IBM Corporation	National Semiconductor
iCAD, Inc.	National Venture Capital Association
Immigration Voice	NebuAd, Inc.
ImTech, Inc.	NetApp
Information Technology Association of America (ITAA)	Nu-Trek, Inc.
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