

HOUSE REPUBLICAN HIGH-TECH WORKING GROUP

SPEAKER J. DENNIS HASTERT
CONGRESSMAN BOB GOODLATTE, CHAIRMAN

PRIORITIES FOR THE 109th CONGRESS

Promoting our Economic Growth

- ❑ **Ensuring Employee Stock Ownership Remains Viable** – We will vigilantly promote and protect the stock ownership and retirement security of high-tech's rank and file employees.
- ❑ **R&D Tax Credit** – We will seek to extend the R&D tax credit and ensure that basic federal R&D spending is sufficient to maintain U.S. technological edge.
- ❑ **Skilled Workforce** – We will continue to prepare and develop workers for an information economy by supporting education reforms and funding that improve American's math and science programs in order to fill high-tech jobs.
- ❑ **Reduce Trade Barriers** – We will continue to promote free and fair trade by lowering barriers, and supporting trade agreements like CAFTA.
- ❑ **Ensuring Fairness in Government IT Acquisitions**- We will continue to promote the commercialization of the Federal marketplace to ensure an open and competitive landscape for all technology companies.

Removing Barriers to Innovation

- ✔ **Class Action Fairness** – Passed legislation to rein in frivolous “Class Action” lawsuits that threaten the high-tech community.
- ❑ **Patent Reform** – We will work to modernize the patent system so that companies have incentives to produce new and high-quality patents, and that the USPTO provides effective turnaround especially for an industry that has rapidly changing technology and innovations.
- ❑ **Protect Intellectual Property from Digital Piracy** – We will promote and enforce strong copyright and patent protection laws to prevent and combat the growing trend of digital piracy.
- ❑ **Spectrum Enhancement** – We will continue to work to update the Telecommunications Act to reflect the changes in technology and competition that may have been driven by the Internet.

Improving our Quality of Life

- ❑ **Spyware and Phishing** – We will work to ensure that innovation is not stifled and consumer confidence is not threatened by bad actors, but that the Internet remains a safe and secure place for electronic commerce to take place.
- ❑ **Promote Health IT** – We will work with the Administration to enact the federal electronic health initiative to move more medical records on-line to save costs, reduce errors, and provide higher-quality care.
- ❑ **Promote Broadband** – We will work to fulfill the President's goal of access to broadband by working to create economic incentives, to remove regulatory barriers, and to promote new technologies to help make broadband affordable for all Americans.