



September 19, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol, H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol, H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), I write to express our strong support for HR 6429, the STEM Jobs Act of 2012, which is set to come before the House of Representatives this week. **Given the importance of STEM workforce issues to the high-tech community, we will consider scoring votes in support of final passage of the STEM Jobs Act in our 112th Congressional Voting Guide.**

The STEM Jobs Act will strengthen the American economy and create jobs by allowing foreign-born U.S. graduates with a master's degree or higher in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) fields to work permanently in the U.S. rather than overseas for our foreign competitors. We must harness the talent of all of our U.S. educated students in order to prosper in a global economy.

Our industry well understands the significant value of foreign-born STEM students to U.S. innovation and economic growth. Foreign-born professionals helped to create a quarter of all high-tech startups from 1995 to 2005 and are responsible for a quarter of global patents filed in the U.S. In short, STEM graduates are job multipliers. Technology companies hire on average five to seven additional workers for every high-skilled immigrant hired in the U.S.

We commend House Judiciary Chairman Lamar Smith for introducing the STEM Jobs Act, which is the latest in a number of important legislative solutions sought by members of both parties in Congress to make our immigration system work to advance U.S. economic growth and job creation. We hope that a strong bipartisan majority in both the House and Senate will coalesce around a solution before the end of the 112th Congress, and a vote in favor of the STEM Jobs Act is a critical step toward that goal.

On behalf of ITI's member companies, I thank you for your leadership on reforming our outdated employment-based immigration system. We look forward to working with you to enact legislation that will continue to provide for U.S. innovation and job growth.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Garfield".

Dean C. Garfield  
President and CEO