



May 22, 2013

Congressman Darrell Issa  
2347 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Issa:

On behalf of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), I write to express our support for your legislation, the Supplying Knowledge Based Immigrants and Lifting Levels of STEM Visa Act, also known as the SKILLS Visa Act.

The SKILLS Visa Act would 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. We also welcome provisions in the legislation that would raise the H-1B cap to 155,000 visas annually and increase the annual allotment for graduates of U.S. universities with advanced degrees to 40,000. The H-1B visa is vital to our industry's ability to complement and grow our US workforce with the world's best and brightest, while boosting the competitive and innovative capacity of our country's most successful companies.

The SKILLS Act would also repeal the antiquated per-country limit on employer-based visas, which prohibit the nationals from any one country from receiving more than 7% of the total number of employment-based immigrant visas in a given year. It makes no sense in today's economy to prevent a talented professional from providing his or her skill set in the U.S. because of an arbitrary limit placed on his or her country of origin. The bill also would make a critical investment to reduce the long-term shortage of skilled workers within the U.S. by creating a fund through increases in H-1B fees to improve and grow our domestic pipeline of STEM students.

The SKILLS Visa Act is an important contribution to the overall immigration reform debate and we hope that both the House and Senate will come together on a set of important changes to our immigration system that will allow U.S. based employers to attract and retain the world's best and highly educated employees so that we can continue to compete in a global marketplace.

We look forward to working with you and the House Judiciary Committee to advance the SKILLS Visa Act through the House of Representatives in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Garfield", written over a horizontal line.

Dean Garfield  
President and CEO  
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)