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May 7, 2007

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Sun Microsystems Inc.

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Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of Compete America, a coalition of corporations, educators, research institutions and trade associations, we urge Congress to put an end to our nation's growing crisis in highly-skilled immigration by fixing our broken H-1B visa and employment-based (EB) green card systems this year.

The H-1B program provides employers with visas for recruiting highly educated foreign professionals into our workforce. The program grants only 65,000 visas per year – the same amount provided when it was first established in 1990, plus an additional 20,000 visas for those holding an advanced degree from a U.S. university. This arbitrary and anachronistic limit does not reflect the reality of today's global economic environment and increasingly works against our nation's competitiveness.

As you may know, last month, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that the fiscal year 2008 allotment of H-1B visas was met *on the very first day applications were accepted*. This clearly demonstrates that reform can no longer wait. The status quo imperils America's innovation leadership and competitiveness, allowing foreign competitors to benefit from the best minds the world has to offer – many of whom have been educated right here in the United States.

This year USCIS received more than two applications for every available visa. Thus, employers who filed on the first day have less than a fifty percent chance of securing a visa number for the foreign talent they seek. Instead, they had to rely on a "lottery" process to secure their foreign employees. Moreover, if they lose the lottery this year, the earliest they will be able to place their prospective employee on the payroll is October 1, 2008 – a full 18 months from now.

For many U.S. employers, the H-1B is an interim step to permanent resident status. The shortage of employment-based permanent resident visas, known as EB green cards, is just as severe as the H-1B visa shortage. The EB green card program is essential if we are to retain highly-skilled professionals who are already here contributing to our economy. However, most EB green card applicants face delays in excess of five years, and these delays are getting worse, not better. Furthermore, massive, multi-year backlogs in the green card program are causing a severe recruiting and retention crisis for employers.

The provisions included in Title V of the "STRIVE" Act, which was recently introduced by Representatives Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ), as well as the Securing Knowledge Innovation and Leadership (SKIL) Bill introduced in the Senate and House by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and Congressman John Shadegg (R-AZ) respectively, represent positive steps toward meaningful reform. Specifically, these reforms would ease access to visas for students in key fields of expertise in our universities, streamline the process of moving talented college graduates into permanent residence and a stable place in our workforce, and establish H-1B and green card limits that are consistent with our country's economic security. We urge Congress to enact these provisions.

We cannot take our position as the world's innovation leader for granted. As Congress moves through the process of comprehensive reform of our immigration laws in the coming weeks, we urge your support for provisions that address our nation's highly-skilled immigration crisis. We believe doing so will encourage job creation, increase economic growth, and enhance U.S. global leadership.

Sincerely,

3Com Corporation Accel Partners

Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.

AeA

Akamai Technologies Altria Group, Inc.

American Council of Engineering Companies American Council on International Personnel American Immigration Lawyers Association

Analog Devices
Applied Materials, Inc.
ARCH Venture Partners

Association of American Universities

Authoria Avava

Axcelis Technologies

Benhamou Global Ventures, LLC

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Broadcom Corporation Business Roundtable Business Software Alliance Cadence Design Systems, Inc.

Case New Holland

Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce (GA)

Centro Civico of Amsterdam, Inc.

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber (OH)

Cisco Systems Inc.

College and University Professional Association

for Human Resources (CUPA-HR)

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce (NE)

CompTIA

Computer Task Group, Inc. Corning Incorporated Custom Fab Solutions

Cymer, Inc.

Deloitte & Touche USA, LLP

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce (VA)

Eaton Corporation

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Electronic Industries Alliance

Emulex

Exxon Mobil Corporation Florida Chamber of Commerce

Genentech, Inc.

Global Personnel Alliance

Google, Inc.

Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce (TX) Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce (VA) Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce (FL) Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce (WA) Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce (LA)

Harmonic

Hewlett-Packard Company

IBM Corporation

Indiana Chamber of Commerce

Information Technology Association of America

Information Technology Industry Council

Ingersoll Rand Company

Intel Corporation
International Rectifier

Intuit

Jenkins • Peer Architects

Johnson City/Jonesborough/Washington County

Chamber of Commerce (TN)

Kalido Keane, Inc.

KLA-Tencor Corporation

Kodak

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PA)

Liz Claiborne Inc. Madrona Venture Group

Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Mason City Area Chamber of Commerce (IA)

McAfee, Inc.

McAllen Chamber of Commerce (TX)

McInnis Contracting Services

MetroWest Chamber of Commerce (MA)

Miasolé

Microsoft Corporation MKS Instruments Inc.

Molecular Motorola, Inc.

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

National Association of Manufacturers

National Association of State Universities and

Land-Grant Colleges

National Semiconductor Corporation

Netflix Nokia

Nokia Siemens Networks

Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce (NE) Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

OPNET Technologies, Inc.

Oracle Corporation

Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce (NV)

Palm, Inc.

Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of

Commerce (NY)
Powershift Ventures

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

QUALCOMM, Inc.

Rasky Baerlein Strategic Communications

Red Hat

Reed Elsevier, Inc.
Roper Corporation

Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce (LA)

salesforce.com

Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce (CA)

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Semiconductor Equipment and Materials

International (SEMI)

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Silicon Valley Bank

Skillsoft

Society for Human Resource Management Software & Information Industry Association Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce (SC) Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce (MO)

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Stillwater Chamber of Commerce (OK)

Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce (FL)

Sun Microsystems, Inc.

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Sybase, Inc. Symantec Synopsys, Inc.

Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber (WA)

TechNet

Technology CEO Council

Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Texas Instruments

The Coca-Cola Company
The McGraw-Hill Companies

T-Mobile

Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce (NY)

TwinWest Chamber of Commerce (MN)

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

VeriSign

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World Wide Packets

Xilinx, Inc. Yahoo! Inc.