OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT

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BSA®
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December 4, 2008

President-elect Barack Obama
Obama for America
P. O. Box 8102
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Dear President-elect Obama:

On behalf of the member companies of the Business Software Alliance (BSA)*, I write to express strong support for your decision to appoint a federal chief technology officer (CTO). The overarching goal for the CTO should be to plan for and use technology to yield broad societal benefits, promote citizen participation, and provide enhanced government services by better connecting citizens with their government today and into the future.

Information technology (IT) provides immediate opportunities and the tools to reap transformational gains. IT can improve government operations and collaboration among agencies, and fundamentally change the relationship between citizens and their government while improving the level and quality of government services to its citizens.

The information needs of citizens are ever changing. An immediate task for the CTO should be to identify opportunities to address these needs, including improving access to broadband communications; ensuring access to government services that span income gaps; and promoting and anticipating the use of technology in life-long learning, environmental protection, health care delivery, and public safety services. Considerable attention has been given to the challenges that government will face in the decades ahead as a result of a changing American population. The CTO should be charged with devising strategies to appropriately link our cities, towns and rural communities to government services, taking into consideration our aging population, shifts in demographics, and changes in employment opportunities. We believe strongly that, in each of these areas, the federal CTO should give consideration to how the government can deploy technology to anticipate and to meet future challenges.

Within government, the CTO should work with federal, state and local agencies with specific responsibilities for health, housing, commerce and other areas and develop a comprehensive IT plan that is flexible, technology neutral, free of prescriptive mandates, aimed at addressing

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current and future needs, and that would be acceptable if embraced by other governments. This plan should also address the information privacy and security needs of citizens. To achieve these goals, the CTO should work closely with leaders in academia, research labs, industry and government at all levels. The CTO should consult regularly with the best and brightest minds developing and deploying new technologies and look for ways to harness their power to improve government and government services.

And finally, the CTO should promote programs and policies that ensure America's leadership in innovation for decades to come. Strong intellectual property laws are indispensable to creativity and inventorship. Information security is an enabler to future growth opportunities. Our education systems must be tailored to produce the best and brightest workers. Science and technology will only flourish if we invest in basic research. Technology can make invaluable contributions to enhancing sustainable use of energy and natural resources and improving the quality of health care while containing costs.

BSA commends your leadership and vision. We eagerly look forward to working with you to ensure that American technology leadership renders its full benefits to improving the quality of life of our citizens, the operations of government, as well as our economic revitalization and growth.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Holleyman, II
President and Chief Executive Officer

**The Business Software Alliance (www.bsa.org) is the foremost organization dedicated to promoting a safe and legal digital world. BSA is the voice of the world's commercial software industry and its hardware partners before governments and in the international marketplace. Its members represent one of the fastest growing industries in the world. BSA programs foster technology innovation through education and policy initiatives that promote copyright protection, cyber security, trade and e-commerce. BSA members include Adobe, Apple, Autodesk, Avid, Bentley Systems, Borland, CA, Cadence Design Systems, Cisco Systems, CNC Software/Mastercam, Corel, CyberLink, Dassault Systèmes SolidWorks Corporation, Dell, EMC, HP, IBM, Intel, McAfee, Microsoft, Monotype Imaging, PTC, Quark, Quest Software, SAP, Siemens, Sybase, Symantec, Synopsys, and The MathWorks.*