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Information Technology Industry Trade Policy Priorities

US information-technology workers and companies now compete in a globally integrated economy where the majority of our customers, fastest growing markets and fiercest competitors are overseas. Two-thirds of our markets and an even larger share of IT spending growth are outside our borders. While we must design our products, services and business strategies for success in the international marketplace, the foundation of that success rests on a competitive US economy that acts as the driving force for growth and innovation around the world. The industry's trade agenda is closely connected to a broader set of issues facing the US economy and central to assuring the industry's future as a global innovation leader: R&D and tax policy, immigration, energy and environment, healthcare and workforce development, and protection of intellectual property rights. ITI Member companies are active in all these areas because technology and innovation are essential variables in the calculus of spurring American competitiveness and global economic development.

Strengthen American workers' ability to compete globally

- Promote national economic agenda that places priority on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and workforce development so US can continue to be global technology leader.
- Enable American workers to compete more effectively in the global economy through expansion of transition assistance and other support for workers.

Press for enforcement of trade agreements to ensure level playing field in global markets

- Support pursuit of the WTO dispute-settlement case against the European Commission for its failure to live up to its trade obligations under the Information Technology Agreement (ITA).
- Work with the new Administration to more aggressively use existing mechanisms to ensure enforcement of trade agreements before formal disputes arise.

Promote US leadership in opening markets to trade and investment through alternative mechanisms and building upon ongoing endeavors

- Support expanded work to increase multilateral trade through a more effective WTO, and an eventual agreement in a revitalized Doha Round.
- Encourage passage of outstanding bilateral FTAs by demonstrating to the new Administration and Congressional leaders the tech community's support for efforts to address remaining concerns.
- Advocate conclusion of a strong and effective Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) that is consistent with current US law.
- Mitigate climate change through advocating conclusion of the Environmental Goods and Services Agreement in the WTO, which would promote innovation and use of green technologies.
- Promote regional trade initiatives and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, a critical market for the IT industry, through APEC and other means.
- Explore new sectoral agreements with key trading partners.
- Pursue elimination of both tariff barriers and the growing proliferation of behind-the-border barriers to trade in goods and services, such as discriminatory technical regulations and standards that deviate from international norms.
- Promote renewal of trade negotiating authority.
- Reduce barriers to electronically delivered services and e-commerce.

Expand opportunities in emerging and other key markets

- Engage China on the wide array of trade issues: adoption of globally accepted standards and conformity assessment practices; respect for and enforcement of IPR (including use of legal software and actions to combat counterfeiting); opening China's government procurement market through balanced accession to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement; and conclusion of a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) that ensures protections for foreign goods and services providers.
- Seek changes to Brazil's and India's trade policies that impose discriminatory and burdensome taxes and tariffs applied to IT products and eliminate foreign direct investment limitations.
- Review US commercial engagement strategy with Russia (in view of pending PNTR debate), particularly with respect to encryption and IPR.