



September 14, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Frist and Reid:

On behalf of TechNet CEOs and senior executives from fields of information technology, biotechnology, e-commerce and finance, I am writing to share our support for the *National Competitiveness Investment Act (NCIA)*. The United States Senate has an opportunity to advance our nation's competitive and economic strength by taking action on the NCIA and other key legislative items, such as restoration of the R&D tax credit and reforms to reverse the growing shortage of highly skilled workers, before Congress adjourns for the year.

TechNet applauds the bi-partisan collaboration that produced the NCIA. In particular, we thank Senators Alexander, Bingaman, Domenici, Ensign, Enzi, Hutchison, Kennedy, Inouye, Lieberman and Stevens for their leadership and determination to advance policies and reforms to protect the economic security and competitive future of our nation.

The depth and diversity of the issues covered in the NCIA demonstrate the complexity and the enormity of the challenges that confront our innovative capacity and capability. Renewing our nation's innovative potential could not come at a more critical time. Maintaining our competitive edge has become far more challenging mainly because other countries are also realizing the job-creating, prosperity-building potential of investing in science, technology, engineering and math education, basic research capabilities, generous tax incentives for R&D operations, and efforts to recruit and retain the world's best and brightest minds.

Support and quick Senate consideration and approval of the National Competitiveness Investment Act is critical to our shared goal of a strong and vibrant innovation economy.

We stand ready to work with you to move this important legislation forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lezlee Westine".

Lezlee Westine  
President & CEO