

UNITED STATES Job Apps



**Tax
Reform**



**Immigration
Reform**



**Research
& Development**



**Clean
Energy**



Infrastructure



**Support
Entrepreneurship**



**Silicon Valley
Patent Office**



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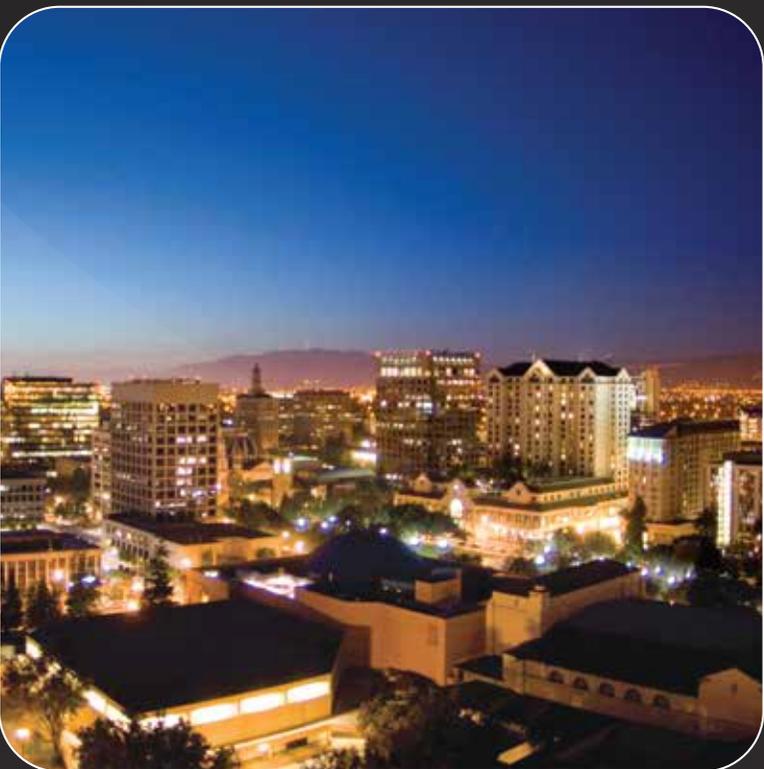


Cybersecurity

2013



The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 375 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax policies, economic vitality and the environment. Leadership Group members collectively provide nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley. Members operate in all 50 states and almost every Congressional District, directly providing employment opportunities for your constituents.



Summary of 2013 Federal Policy Agenda

Grow U.S. Economy by Passing Immigration Reform



For decades, the best and brightest from around the world have come to Silicon Valley to innovate. But U.S. immigration policies, along with growing opportunities in other countries, are now keeping them out. Our economic success will rise or fall based on our ability to recruit and retain high-skilled workers.

It is urgent for Congress to quickly pass immigration reform so we can compete globally for these skilled workers in the crucial years ahead. We support the bipartisan Comprehensive Immigration Reform efforts of the Gang of 8 as well as the Immigration Innovation Act ('I-Squared'), Startup Act 3.0 (Moran), and the IDEA Act (Lofgren). We also strongly support proposals to allocate visa fees for U.S. science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs to train the next generation of our workforce.

The Leadership Group supports a comprehensive immigration package which includes the following high-skilled immigration reform principles:

Make The H1-B And Green Card Programs Work For America

- Establish a market-based H-1B cap and increase the employment-based green card cap.
- Streamline and improve visa and green card application processes:
 - > Reduce length of time and uncertainty in process
 - > Clear current backlog
 - > Recapture unused green cards from previous years to reduce and prevent future backlogs
- Exempt spouses and children of green card recipients from the green card cap.
- Eliminate the employment-based per-country visa cap entirely by 2015 and raise the family sponsored per-country visa cap from 7 percent to 15 percent.

Recruit And Retain The Best And Brightest

Provide visas and green cards to startup entrepreneurs and advance science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degree holders from U.S. universities.

Exempt U.S. advanced degree graduates, as well as foreign advanced STEM degree graduates with U.S. work experience, from the green card cap.

Grow U.S. Economy and Jobs by Modernizing the Business Tax Code with a Competitive, Lower Tax Rate and Permanent R&D Tax Credit



Since the global economy has evolved dramatically since the last update of the U.S. Tax Code in 1986, the U.S. needs a modernized tax system that will encourage U.S. economic growth and encourage America's global companies to create jobs and opportunities at home. With a statutory tax rate at 39.2 percent, U.S. businesses operating in global markets are shouldered with the highest rate among all the world's largest economies.

With 95 percent of the world's customers located outside of the United States, America's leading global companies know that the U.S. tax code is a major driver of where to expand or locate the next factory or facility, and the accompanying jobs. The business climate, including tax policy, often can have a significant influence on critical investment decisions.

Three pillars to reasonable comprehensive tax reform, to strengthen our nation's economic foundation and create jobs here at home, must include:

- A lower business tax rate would help to level the playing field in global markets.
- A competitive territorial system that would end the practice of double taxing U.S. companies' foreign earnings – which virtually no other countries practice.
- A permanent and strengthened R&D tax credit is a jobs credit promoting breakthrough R&D to revitalize the U.S. as the world's innovation hub. R&D is the lifeblood of the next wave of innovation and should be a critical component of any business tax reform solution.

Increase U.S. Scientific Research Investments



Technological innovation, often based on federally funded research, has driven more than half of U.S. economic growth post-WWII. The federal government plays a critical role, providing some 60 percent of funding for scientific research that might not otherwise happen because companies are more interested in later-stage research. While we recognize concerns about the deficit and the need to spend federal resources wisely, funding for scientific research must be prioritized so we do not compromise our future economic growth and security.

Support Clean Energy Jobs, Stimulate Economic Growth and Advance National Energy Independence



America's clean economy expanded jobs at a rate of 8.3 percent during the recession. The U.S. is well-positioned to create jobs, stimulate economic growth and advance national energy independence by supporting the following:

- **Data Center Efficiency:** Support H.R. 540 (Eshoo and Rogers) to reduce the energy footprint of government data centers and coordinate workforce training for energy auditors.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Support legislation (Shaheen and Portman) to establish a national energy efficiency strategy to help residents and businesses save money.
- **Clean Energy:** Support access to capital for wind, solar, fuel cells, energy storage and other clean energy technologies by preserving existing tax incentives and by passing a Master Limited Partnership Parity Act (Coons).

Support High Growth Entrepreneurship



According to a study by the Kauffman Foundation, companies less than 5 years old accounted for nearly all net job creation within the United States between 1980 and 2005. Startup companies create on average approximately 3 million jobs per year. We strongly support legislation such as S. 310 Startup Act 3.0 (Moran) and other efforts to:

- Decrease regulatory burdens such as improving the quality, speed and transparency of patent and FDA applications for new products and technologies.
- Ensure access to the talent the U.S. needs to excel in a global marketplace through an entrepreneur visa.
- Provide startups with easier access to capital.
- Provide tax incentives by enacting long-term or permanent R&D tax credits that they can take against employment taxes and offering tax exemptions to small businesses.

Enhanced Cybersecurity



Companies big and small are being "hacked" regularly. Threats to our information infrastructure must be addressed by government action that promotes continued growth, competitiveness and innovation including:

- Focus foremost on cybercriminals by ensuring that our legal framework and law enforcement can effectively deter and prosecute cyber crimes.

- Facilitate greater transparency and information sharing between government and the private sector.
- Promote public-private partnerships, addressing the need for security clearances and liability indemnification in order to encourage experts in the private sector to share information both with the government and among themselves in multi-company settings.
- Increase and coordinate federal investment for cybersecurity R&D.
- Promote R&D collaboration between federal agencies, universities and industry, and the timely transfer of new technologies into the marketplace.

Accomplished

Investments in Transportation Infrastructure

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group thanks Congress and the Administration for embracing Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century or MAP-21 (Boxer/Inhofe), the bipartisan transportation bill that is literally getting this country moving again.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Silicon Valley extension provides a superb example of federal transportation funding making an impact: \$900 million in the first phase of the project leverages more than \$250 million in state and \$1.2 billion in local funding. This first phase is under construction thanks to the support of many in Congress. The full extension of BART to Silicon Valley will create 2,500 temporary and up to 7,400 permanent direct jobs annually and carry more than 90,000 daily riders. Please help us keep Phase I on track with sufficient New Starts funding and move forward with Phase 2, through downtown San Jose and completing the rail link around the Bay Area!

Regional Patent Office in Silicon Valley

Thank you to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for choosing to place a regional patent office in Silicon Valley. A regional office in Silicon Valley will facilitate and speed up patent applications, eliminate the need for innovator's travel and make more frequent meetings between innovators and staff possible. This is especially important for startup companies that have limited time and financial resources. We look forward to working closely with the USPTO to make the office a success.

Free Trade Agreements Help Boost U.S. GDP

We applaud the free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama, which are estimated to lead to an annual increase of \$12 billion in new U.S. sales and the Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with Russia and Moldova. Silicon Valley supports the expansion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership FTA with Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

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