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TechNet Welcomes Senate Passage of *Modernizing Government Technology Act* in NDAA

Washington, D.C. — TechNet, the national, bipartisan network of innovation economy CEOs and senior executives, welcomed today's Senate passage of the 2018 *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA) conference report, which contains the *Modernizing Government Technology* (MGT) Act. The legislation now heads to the President's desk to be signed into law.

The MGT Act authorizes funding to improve, retire, or replace current federal government technology systems, accelerate the transition to cloud computing platforms, and procure IT products and services to strengthen the federal government's cybersecurity defenses. The House version of the MGT Act was authored by Representative Will Hurd (R-TX). Senators Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Tom Udall (D-NM) have championed the Senate version of the bill, which they were able to include in that chamber's earlier version of the NDAA.

The conference report also excludes a proposal originally included in the Senate-passed NDAA that would have required companies to provide their proprietary source code to the Department of Defense as a condition of doing business with the federal government. TechNet successfully advocated for the removal of that provision during conference committee negotiations.

The following statement is attributable to Linda Moore, President & CEO of TechNet:

"Congress' passage of the *Modernizing Government Technology Act* will help put an end to the federal government spending 80 percent of its \$80 billion annual IT budget on maintaining aging, insecure, and expensive legacy systems. With this law in place, we can begin to fully implement the modern IT systems we need and that our people deserve in the 21st century.

"Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Representatives Will Hurd and Robin Kelly, Senators Jerry Moran and Tom Udall, and the White House's Office of American Innovation deserve credit for prioritizing this legislation and working tirelessly to get it across the finish line. We urge Congress to ensure the MGT Act is fully funded so we

can begin implementing it right away and help the government better serve our citizens through secure, efficient, and cost-effective IT systems.

“Additionally, we thank members of the House and Senate who worked to defeat the concerning source code provision in the Senate’s initial NDAA bill. With Congress’ work on NDAA complete for the year, we thank lawmakers for working with the tech industry to ensure we can continue partnering with the military to provide tech solutions in support of the brave servicemen and women carrying out crucial missions.”

About TechNet

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet’s diverse membership includes dynamic startups and the most iconic companies on the planet and represents three million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, biotechnology, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Washington, D.C., Silicon Valley, San Francisco, Sacramento, Austin, Boston, Olympia, Albany, and Tallahassee.

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