



**TECHNET**  
THE VOICE OF THE  
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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## **Statement of TechNet President and CEO Linda Moore on President Obama's State of the Union Address**

"President Obama laid out an election-year agenda in tonight's State of the Union Address, and in several key areas, the President advocated for policies that will advance the innovation economy and improve our nation's global competitiveness.

Most importantly, the President called for Congressional passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the important free trade agreement that TechNet endorsed just yesterday. We believe that this trade agreement will grow jobs, increase economic growth, open the door to opportunity for U.S. technology companies in the Pacific Rim, and reduce trade barriers.

Additionally, the President said that our nation should provide "every student the hands-on computer science and math classes that make them job-ready on day one." We couldn't agree more. Our economy demands that students have technical skills, but we're not doing nearly enough to prepare them for the jobs of the future. Today, only one in 10 schools across the nation offer programming classes. If we don't address this shortfall, we will put our nation at a strategic disadvantage for decades to come. By 2020, there will be at least 1 million jobs in the U.S. that go unfilled because there are not enough graduates with the necessary computing skills to fill them. That's why we need to implement a comprehensive strategy to encourage more young people to pursue careers and opportunities in computer science and the other STEM fields.

Furthermore, the President asked, "Why would we want to pass up the chance for American businesses to produce and sell the energy of the future?" The United States is leading the way when it comes to developing clean technologies and energy. Our nation should do more to accelerate the adoption of solar, wind, fuel cells, and other clean technologies.

As we saw in the closing days of 2015, it is indeed possible to find bipartisan agreement on issues of importance to our nation. TechNet will work over the next year to advocate for these issues, and many more, which matter most to the innovation economy."

**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 to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents more than 2.5 million employees in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, advanced energy, biotechnology, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Washington, D.C., Silicon Valley, San Francisco, Sacramento, Austin, Boston, Seattle, Albany, and Tallahassee.*

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