



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

August 2, 2017

Contact:
Scott Gerber, (202) 463-0067

TechNet Statement on Cotton-Perdue Immigration Bill

Washington, D.C. — TechNet, the national, bipartisan network of innovation economy CEOs and senior executives, today expressed its concerns regarding the RAISE Act, an immigration bill sponsored by U.S. Senators Tom Cotton (R-AR) and David Perdue (R-GA) and backed by the White House. The following statement is attributable to TechNet President and CEO Linda Moore:

“At this very moment, half a million jobs in the U.S. that require computer science training are unfilled. That’s indicative of the investments we need to make in STEM education as well as the need for high-skilled immigration reform that allows American companies to fill these critical labor shortages immediately. The RAISE Act solves neither of these problems and instead cuts green cards by half at a time when the demand for more high-skilled worker green cards and H-1B visas is holding back job creation in the tech industry.

“Arbitrarily and drastically cutting legal immigration is not the answer to fixing our immigration system, and neither is a government-dictated immigration approach to determining what kind of high-skilled worker U.S. companies need. Congress should instead prioritize efforts to reform our high-skilled immigration system to curb abuses and ensure that more green cards and visas are available to address the high-skilled labor shortage now facing the U.S. economy.

“America’s technology industry is proof positive of how highly skilled immigrants drive innovation, economic growth, and job creation in the United States. A study released last month showed that immigrant entrepreneurs ‘have started more than half (44 of 87) of America’s startup companies that are valued at \$1 billion or more.’ At TechNet, we represent iconic American companies that have been founded or led by immigrants, all of whom have benefitted by having high-skilled immigrants innovating alongside native-born Americans to create millions of jobs and trillions of dollars worth of economic activity. The RAISE Act is not the right policy to enable us to continue doing this.”

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 more than 2.5 million employees in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, 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.

###