

January 5, 2017

TechNet Opposes Discriminatory Legislation that Threatens Texas' Economy

Austin — TechNet, the national, bipartisan network of innovation economy CEOs and senior executives, today announced its opposition to discriminatory legislation in Texas that will significantly harm the state's economy. The following statement can be attributed to Caroline Joiner, executive director for Texas and the Southeast.

"Discriminatory legislation like Senate Bill 6 has no place in Texas. Our state has established itself as one of the nation's strongest economies precisely because we value and embrace a talented and diverse workforce. Efforts like Senate Bill 6 threaten to upend this growth by hindering the recruitment of the best and brightest to live and work in Texas. Simply put: Texas must do all it can to ensure that it remains open to business for all. This means emphatically rejecting discriminatory legislation like Senate Bill 6."

TechNet is a member of Keep Texas Open for Business, a coalition of Texas businesses that educates state leaders on the negative impact discriminatory legislation could pose to the Texas economy.

In December 2016, the coalition released a report finding that Texas could face an \$8.5 billion decline in the state's GDP and lose 185,000 jobs if discriminatory legislation becomes law. The full report can be read <u>here</u>.

Caroline Joiner authored an op-ed on this issue, "The Lone Star State must be open to business for all," in November 2016. The op-ed can be read <u>here</u>.

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 two 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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