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November 13, 2006

Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

We strongly support H.R. 5602, legislation extending Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status for Vietnam, and are writing to urge your support for its passage. The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) is composed of the nation's leading technology companies. International trade is vitally important to our industry. On average, more than 60 percent of U.S. technology industry revenues are derived from outside the United States. Passage of this legislation is important to success of the overall U.S. trade agenda.

We intend to score the vote on this legislation in our High Tech Voting Guide. The ITI High Tech Voting Guide is a report card on our industry as much as it is on the Congress. It reflects the progress of Members of Congress understanding the digital world and the policies that impact it. ITI's High Tech Voting Guide is one of only two business group ratings to be published in the Almanac of American Politics.

The Information Technology Industry Council seeks congressional approval of PNTR for Vietnam so that our companies may take full advantage of the benefits accrued by Vietnam's accession to the WTO. Vietnam's government has made high technology one of the country's main priorities by giving high-tech companies special status and investment incentives. The country continues to invest heavily in information technology, paving the way for the U.S. high tech sector to increase exports, expand investment, and take advantage of the opportunities in the Vietnamese market. Capturing more of that market for U.S. products and services will be possible through Vietnam's accession to the WTO.

Increased trade with Vietnam helps reinforce U.S.-Vietnamese relations. It is extremely important for the U.S. to bolster reformers within Vietnam in their efforts to integrate Vietnam into the global economy. President Bush is scheduled to visit Vietnam for the APEC Leaders' Summit later this week, and passage of this legislation will show U.S. Congressional support for a robust and meaningful bilateral relationship.

Moreover, it sends to the world the message that the United States Congress remains committed to trade and investment liberalization in the many on-going trade negotiations. We look forward to working with you to pass this agreement.

Sincerely,



Rhett Dawson
President
Information Technology Industry Council

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