

October 31, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman, Committee on Education & the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable George Miller  
Committee on Education & the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Kline, and Ranking Members Alexander and Miller:

On behalf of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), I write to express our strong support for a reauthorized and updated Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. ITI represents 54 of the world's most innovative companies, including computer hardware and software, Internet services, and wireless networking companies. ITI is the voice of the high-tech community, advocating for policies that advance U.S. leadership in technology and innovation, open access to new and emerging markets, support e-commerce expansion, and enhance our domestic workforce.

As you begin your work to reauthorize the Perkins Act, I urge that the Committee develop and approve legislation that reflects the following principles and would bring the Act into the twenty-first century and enhance our domestic workforce:

- **Align curriculum** to current and future labor market needs in high-growth industry sectors like ours;
- **Strengthen collaborations** among secondary and postsecondary institutions; and
- **Incorporate workplace experience** for students through internships, apprenticeships, and mentorships with local employers, and experiential teaching methods such as work-based learning classes and project-based learning.

Our industry is very concerned about the growing skills gap weighing on our economy. Far too many graduates are entering the workplace without the skills today's economy demands, thereby threatening American innovation and job growth. The United States' information technology industry is the strongest in the world; however, to maintain this position, it is important that Congress not just reauthorize the Perkins Act, but also modernize it to reflect the demands of today's knowledge-based economy.

ITI and its member companies stand ready to work with policymakers to shrink our nation's skills gap and ensure that American workers have the cutting edge skills that will further advance U.S. competitiveness, innovation, and economic growth.

Very respectfully yours,



Dean C. Garfield  
President & CEO