IBM’s Public Policy and Legislative Issues

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
IBM strongly supports Congressional ratification of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a 21st Century Trade agreement that will promote U.S. exports and support high-skill jobs. IBM competes in over 170 countries and relies on free trade agreements (FTAs) to open world markets to U.S. innovations. TPP is the first FTA specifically designed for the global digital economy, enabling the free flow of data across borders and promoting data-driven innovation, an area of U.S. economic strength.

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DEFEND TRADE SECRETS
IBM supports the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015 (S.1890 and H.R. 3326), bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation to create a federal civil cause of action to stop trade secret theft. The remedies made available under this legislation will help IBM enhance protection of valuable confidential information such as manufacturing processes and software source code.

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PERKINS CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT (CTE)
IBM supports the reauthorization of Perkins CTE to improve the supply of workforce-ready graduates, align CTE programs to local, state, and regional market needs, and support collaboration between secondary and post-secondary institutions and employers.

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HEALTH IT INNOVATION
IBM supported the passage of the bipartisan MEDTECH Act, S.1101 through the Senate HELP Committee on March 9, 2016. The bill would spur innovation by providing regulatory clarity and certainty for low-risk clinical decision support (CDS) software. As the Senate moves to advance the Innovation legislative package before the full chamber, IBM supports the inclusion of S. 1101 to pave the way for exciting new technologies to help clinicians better identify and personalize patient treatment options, and significantly enhance the patient experience.

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PRIVACY – LEADS Act
IBM supports the LEADS Act (H.R. 1174 and S. 512) to extend privacy protections by imposing significant new legal safeguards on the U.S. government's ability to access data of non-U.S. persons stored overseas, and limiting access to data of Americans stored overseas, if accessing such data would violate foreign laws.

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PATENT LITIGATION REFORM
IBM supports the Innovation Act, H.R. 9, to discourage frivolous patent litigation that affects businesses of all sizes, and that does not include proposals to expand or extend the temporary covered business patent proceeding at the Patent Office that would harm software patents. We also support the PATENT Act, S. 1137 that curbs abusive behaviors in our patent litigation system while preserving protections for innovative technologies that spur economic growth.

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HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING
IBM supports the Energy Policy Modernization Act S. 2012. The Act includes, Section 2401, Exascale Research Program, which is companion language to H.R. 874 passed by the House in 2015, to drive next generation computing. We will work for enactment of this bipartisan, bicameral legislation that appropriately promotes the development of high performance computing, in particular Exascale computing and related analytics.

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HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRATION REFORM
IBM supports a modern, flexible immigration system that includes more high-skilled (H-1B and H-1L) visas and employment-based green cards, combined with additional STEM education funding. Such a system will support IBM’s strong domestic pipeline of skilled talent, as well as new business growth and technological leadership in the United States. We urge Congress to legislate fixes to America’s broken high-skilled immigration system as soon as possible.

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CORPORATE AND INTERNATIONAL TAX REFORM
IBM continues to work for bipartisan fundamental tax reform that modernizes the corporate tax system with a lower competitive rate and updated international tax rules. The U.S. is a less competitive outlier among its major trading partners. Meaningful tax reform is needed to promote and retain investment in the U.S., and to keep American companies globally competitive, particularly as most countries around the global continue to reduce their corporate tax burdens.

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