

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
United States Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I write to congratulate you on your recent confirmation as the United States Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. I was encouraged by your statements in your hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and look forward to your success in your new role.

As you know, our nation's immigration system desperately needs to be modernized. The Consumer Technology Association (CTA), an association of some 2000 American technology companies, supports efforts both in the administration and in Congress to streamline and make America's immigration system more competitive and successful. Our nation's innovators are international leaders, and we need to ensure that the world's best and brightest can continue to come to America to innovate and contribute to our collective success. Immigrants, and children of immigrants, have been instrumental in the development of our nation's world-leading technology industry. From founding companies such as Intel and Google to our thriving startup ecosystem, immigrant innovators have contributed greatly to our nation's economic success and security. To maintain this level of innovation, many existing programs need to be fundamentally overhauled to make it easier for the world's best and brightest to innovate here in America, while others—such as the International Entrepreneur Rule (IER)—simply need to be given the chance to work.

As you are aware, the IER would give foreign nationals the ability to temporarily reside in, and build their companies, here in America. These successful ventures would have a positive effect on our economy, such as by spurring job creation and promoting valuable skills and abilities for domestic workers. Unfortunately, the IER was never given the opportunity to succeed, as the Trump Administration sought to dismantle the rule before it ever began. For this reason, CTA strongly encourages the Department of Homeland Security to move forward with reviving the IER, and working to ensure its success.

Immigration was an important part of our nation's past success and will also remain important for our nation's future success. From providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, protecting access to and expanding the pool of high-skilled immigrants, and giving international entrepreneurs a chance to build in America, modernized immigration programs are paramount for our nation's continued competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration of preserving the IER. CTA looks forward to working with you and the Department to make the United States the number one destination for the world's innovators, job creators, and entrepreneurs.

Sincerely,

Gary Shapiro

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Shapiro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President & CEO
Consumer Technology Association