

JUDY CHU, Ph.D.
32ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY**
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, COMPETITION,
AND THE INTERNET
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CRIME, TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

**COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS**
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONTRACTING AND WORKFORCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, AND TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAX, AND CAPITAL ACCESS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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October 23, 2012

Chairman Lamar Smith
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Elton Gallegly
House Judiciary Subcommittee
on Immigration Policy and Enforcement
B-353 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member John Conyers
House Judiciary Committee
B-351 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren
House Judiciary Subcommittee
on Immigration Policy and Enforcement
B-351 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The need for truly talented and highly skilled workers is great. Even with unemployment at historically high levels, a large numbers of jobs are going unfilled because of a lack of qualified workers trained in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). According to a report by the Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte, the manufacturing sector cannot find people with the skills to take nearly 600,000 unfilled jobs. America's economy will not remain the strongest in the world if we cannot supply the skilled employees our companies need to stay competitive.

Highly skilled and talented workers are a powerful source of new innovation and job creation for the United States, no matter where they were born. A study by the Kauffman foundation found that inventors who created companies in the United States were more likely to have engineering and science backgrounds. And many of those entrepreneurs were born out of the United States. According to a survey by Vivek Wadhwa, from 1995 to 2005, more than half of all Silicon Valley startups had at least one immigrant founder; across the country the figure was just over one-quarter.

With our economy recovering from the worst recession in generations, we must do everything we can to remain competitive and grow our economy. That is why I urge you to immediately come together to craft bipartisan legislation that can pass both Houses of Congress and be signed into law that creates STEM visas allowing highly skilled immigrants educated in the United States to stay, work and innovate here. We must do everything in our power to pass STEM visa

legislation before the end of the year. This will promote innovation, job creation and economic growth at a time when we need it most.

I stand ready and willing to be a partner in this effort. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you on immigration issues that will benefit our nation and grow our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Chu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judy" and the last name "Chu" clearly legible.

REP. JUDY CHU
Member of Congress