



# 2025 FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA

The United States has led the world in technological innovation, driving transformative advancements that power our economy, secure our nation, and elevate our global standing. From defense to healthcare to manufacturing, America's unparalleled technological ecosystem ensures productivity, resilience, and efficiency across every sector. Yet, America's leadership faces intensifying challenges from foreign adversaries, including China, that are determined to outpace us in critical and emerging technologies.

To safeguard our future and win the next era of innovation, we must double down on strategic investments, fortify our talent pipeline, and create a policy environment that empowers American innovators to thrive.

## ABOUT TECHNET

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy.

TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C.

As the Voice of the Innovation Economy, TechNet advances public policies and private sector initiatives at the federal, state, and local levels that make the United States the world leader in innovation. We champion policies that foster a climate of innovation and competition, allowing America's tech industry to flourish. When policymakers are grappling with today's most transformative new technologies, they turn to us.

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## Strengthening America's Competitive Edge

### Lead the World in Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds tremendous promise for improving lives in the United States and around the globe. Maintaining American leadership in AI is critical to unlocking this promise and to our economic and national security. Policymakers should leverage existing laws and adopt a risk-based approach to address actual harms rather than theoretical ones. We already have laws on the books that benefit from decades of refinement and clear compliance standards, and they can and should be applied to AI. When AI-specific regulation is needed, lawmakers should take an incremental approach and employ voluntary industry standards and best practices to ensure responsible AI innovation. Permanently establishing a U.S. AI Safety Institute (AIS) is critical to maintaining U.S. global leadership on AI policy and developing science-backed international AI standards that embody Western values and promote innovation. Failure to establish a well-resourced AI Safety Institute to advance pro-American AI standards will risk allowing other countries to write global rules and regulations that could harm American AI innovation.

### Recruit the World's Best Talent

The United States is engaged in a race against our adversaries to recruit the world's best high-skilled workers, entrepreneurs, and innovators of the next breakthrough technologies. If we can't attract and retain the best global talent, we will lose our technological and competitive edge. We must streamline and broaden high-skilled worker visas like the H-1B program, eliminate discriminatory country caps on green cards, make it easier for entrepreneurs to come to the United States and create jobs here, and provide a green card to foreign STEM degree students who graduate from American colleges so they can join America's workforce instead of going home to compete against us. These policies will prioritize for admission those immigrants who contribute most to our economy, help our leading tech innovators close the STEM talent gap, and increase economic growth.

### Invest in America's Own STEM Talent Pipeline

For the United States to remain the dominant global force and the hub for technological innovation, we must strengthen our domestic STEM talent pipeline. American students and adults need high quality, widely accessible STEM and workforce education and training programs at all levels to give them the tools they need to succeed. Federal, state, and private investments in computer science, core STEM competencies, and related programs, including financial literacy, from early childhood through high school and beyond will produce immense returns for American economic and national security. Congress should start by fully funding STEM education programs enacted in the bipartisan *CHIPS and Science Act* and supporting other innovative education and training programs. We must also expand broadband and wireless connectivity to bring opportunities for innovation to all corners of the United States.

### **Enact Innovation-Friendly Tax Laws**

The U.S. corporate tax system has been a key to American competitiveness, encouraging and facilitating economic growth, development, and technological innovation. Lawmakers must maintain this successful tax system by reauthorizing the qualified business income deduction and other critical provisions of the *Tax Cuts & Jobs Act* before they expire this year, reauthorizing the 48D advanced manufacturing investment credit, maintaining qualified small business stock treatment to attract investors, and permanently excluding capital gains taxes on investments in startup businesses that are held for more than five years. To supercharge innovation and remain the global technology leader, the United States should also restore the ability for businesses to deduct research and development (R&D) expenses in the year they are incurred, provide clarity and certainty around the tax treatment of digital assets, and raise the 1099-K reporting threshold to protect casual sellers who utilize online marketplaces to make ends meet.

### **Protect Consumers and Create Certainty with a Comprehensive Data Privacy Law**

The internet is inherently inter-state, yet a growing patchwork of confusing and burdensome state data privacy laws is stifling innovation and killing startups. Since 2018, 225 comprehensive privacy bills have been introduced in 46 states. 20 states now have different, often conflicting privacy laws that are being revised each year, with more to come. According to a report from the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), a 50-state patchwork would cost our economy more than \$1 trillion over ten years, with \$200 billion being borne by small businesses. The United States needs a single, uniform, preemptive data privacy law at the federal level to protect consumers' privacy while providing businesses certainty so they can spend their resources on improving their products and creating jobs rather than paying compliance attorneys.

### **Empower Successful American Companies**

The United States' culture of innovation has produced some of the world's best companies. Over the last few years, intermediary liability laws and federal antitrust enforcement have been used against those companies, in some cases seemingly targeting them for size alone, even in highly competitive markets. Rather than punishing American companies for success, the United States should return to the core principle that antitrust is about protecting consumers and ensuring competitive markets and innovation. Big is not inherently bad, and the United States needs both big and small American companies to take on foreign competitors, including competitors owned or controlled by our adversaries. Further, the interactive computer services that Americans enjoy and depend on every day rely on strong intermediary liability protections to provide a forum for speech and user-generated content to flourish.

### **Protect American Innovation Around the Globe**

American technology companies face unprecedented challenges in global markets, including discriminatory trade practices, forced data localization, and supply chain disruptions. To maintain our global leadership in technology, the federal government must actively champion American innovation abroad. This includes leveraging diplomatic and economic tools to dismantle barriers like digital services taxes, discriminatory regulations, and unfair tech transfer mandates. The United States must also lead at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and forge partnerships that promote open, equitable digital trade. By advancing trade agreements, resisting unilateral tariffs that harm American businesses and consumers, and ensuring non-discriminatory treatment of digital products, we can maintain a level playing field. Securing global market access for U.S. innovators is not just about economic growth—it's about defending our national security, workforce, and technological edge against adversaries determined to reshape global standards to their advantage.

### **Support Pioneering Workforce Models**

The gig and sharing economies create income opportunities in virtually every corner of the country, allowing more than 58 million Americans to work independently on their preferred schedules, run their own business, and provide for their family while being their own boss. Congress should pass legislation to create clear definitions and standards across federal laws to protect independent workers and provide certainty for the companies with which they work. Congress should also establish a predictable labor and tax framework to reflect the permanence of remote work across industries.

### **Advance American Mobility**

Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) will redefine transportation and mobility for generations to come, making our roads safer, transportation easier, and our companies and workers more productive. Congress should pass a national framework that promotes the safe testing, deployment, and operation of AVs by clarifying federal and state roles, expanding exemptions, and expediting rulemaking. Congress should also continue to support and incentivize the development of EVs and the charging networks and power grids that enable them.