

April 13, 2017

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you as the leaders of The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS), a nonprofit association that dates back to 1871. We are an individual membership organization of 13,000 materials scientists and engineers from around the world, but primarily the United States. We are mostly Ph.D.s, and our members work to support the national defense of the country, to make industry more efficient and profitable, to add innovation to the consumer and business products that drive our marketplace and economy, and to educate young people in the pursuit of vital careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We also count many graduate and undergraduate students from the country's great universities among our members. We are headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where we employ 38 staff in addition to dozens of contractors and temporary staff. We hold several major conferences annually nationwide, generating millions of dollars in business for the regions in which these meetings are held. Over time, the lessons learned and applied from these conferences translate into countless billions in GDP for the nation.

As you juggle these and so many other concerns, we respectfully ask that you give special attention to any decisions that could negatively impact the ability of U.S. scientists and engineers to travel freely throughout the world or that could restrict the ability of scientists and engineers from any other country in entering the United States. We know from experience that we have much to learn from scientists in all other countries, and this information can be applied to lift up both the United States and the world community—better positioning us for peace and security. In the short run, visas issued to scientists and engineers from other countries help us all as we talk to these individuals at our conferences and as they make visits to our institutions. As we learn more about their work, the U.S. benefits. In the long run, scientists and engineers who immigrate to the United States have proven exceptionally valuable to so many of our domestic defense and business enterprises. Indeed, 1 out of 5 U.S. scientists and engineers is an immigrant; they are trusted members of defense, business, and educational enterprises throughout the country and are instrumental in mentoring our young people and in creating jobs for our communities. Stemming the migration of talent into the United States in any way on a temporary or a long-term basis would be deleterious to the country as our domestic needs for their time, talent, and ingenuity are too great. And, the benefits that we can realize are immeasurable. It is incumbent on all of us to cultivate the health of this network for the greater good.

Thank you for giving time and attention to our concerns. We stand ready within our realm of expertise and experience to explain our perspective in greater depth as would be helpful to you, to your staff, or to any representative of the Administration or Congress.

Most respectfully,



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