



October 26, 2005

Congressman Adam Smith
227 Cannon Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

On behalf of the Seattle Chapter of the Society for Information Management, we are pleased to write this letter in recognition and support of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Improvement Act.

The Society for Information Management (SIM) is a community of senior IT executives, prominent academicians, consultants, and other IT thought leaders, who come together to share and enhance their rich intellectual capital, through its local chapters and international offerings.

In 2004, the Seattle Chapter of SIM completed a research study investigating the trend in global IT sourcing. The purpose of this research was to increase our understanding of the impact of global IT sourcing and begin to map a strategy for improved competitiveness in a global market for business, workers and our educational system. Based on the findings of the research and a series of extensive community discussions, we recommended that TAA benefits be expanded to service sector workers, including IT practitioners. The legislation you have proposed goes far beyond what we envisioned as possible in 2004; correcting critical flaws that dilute the effectiveness and hinder access to all workers impacted by trade.

In 2005, SIM National conducted a new study on the IT workforce and sourcing. From preliminary findings, we know that global IT sourcing (offshore and domestic) will continue, at the same time there will be increased opportunities for IT workers in the United States. However, these opportunities will require practitioners to upgrade or acquire new business and technical skills to effectively compete for jobs.

IT practitioners contribute significantly to the competitiveness of US organizations and our economy. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Improvement Act provides the support necessary for this population as they continue to experience the affects of globalization. The Seattle Chapter of SIM is honored to cosponsor the Trade Adjustment Assistance Improvement Act and applaud your leadership and dedication in this matter.

Sincerely,

James P. Ratchford

Joy C. Howland

Vickie Stovall

Clare Megathlin

John Howland