



**TECHNET**  
THE VOICE OF THE  
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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March 14, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Majority Leader  
H-107, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Democratic Leader  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Democratic Leader  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy, Schumer, and Pelosi:

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of innovation economy CEOs and senior executives. Our diverse membership includes dynamic startups and the most iconic companies on the planet and represents three million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. As Congress finalizes the omnibus funding bill for fiscal year 2018, we are writing to urge you to ensure full funding for the *Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act* is included.

Many parts of the federal government's IT infrastructure are woefully outdated at a time when agencies are faced with an increasing number of cyberthreats. Relying on aging systems is unacceptable in an era of relentless cyberattacks, and often undermines the federal government's ability to properly serve taxpayers, veterans, and other citizens seeking assistance. Coupled with the fact that the federal government spends approximately 80 percent of its annual \$80 billion IT budget to sustain and operate legacy networks and systems, it is imperative that we shift investment to prioritize innovation and modernization of government technology.

The MGT Act authorizes funding to improve, retire, or replace current federal government technology systems, accelerate the transition to cloud computing

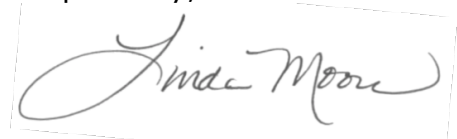
platforms, and procure IT products and services to strengthen the federal government's cybersecurity defenses. Inconsistent funding cycles in the past have inhibited agencies' ability to plan for and procure the latest innovations to address their IT needs, leaving them with no option other than to maintain their older platforms. A fully funded MGT Act will help address these issues, and put an end to federal government spending on maintaining aging, insecure, and expensive legacy systems.

The MGT Act was signed into law last year as part of the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA). To ensure the full benefits of the law are realized, we urge you to support full funding for the MGT Act for fiscal year 2018 in the upcoming omnibus legislation.

We believe that the MGT Act is an important first step to help agencies fund investments in new technologies and strengthen their cybersecurity capabilities. Moreover, the MGT Act will enable agencies to better acquire innovative technologies, improve constituent services, deliver greater efficiencies for the taxpayer, and increase capabilities and technological advantages for fulfilling the government's mission.

Thank you for your attention to this effort to bolster the federal government's technological capacities and information security.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda Moore", enclosed within a thin rectangular border.

Linda Moore  
President and CEO

CC: The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Tom Graves, Chairman, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Mike Quigley, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chairman, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Chris Coons, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, Senate Appropriations Committee