

March 25, 2013

Technology Committee Updates: I-Squared Gaining Momentum; Cybersecurity Executive Order Briefing

It was great to see so many of you in Washington last week during our Annual Spring Event. We wanted to share several updates relative to the NEC Technology Committee with you.

I-Squared Bill Gaining Momentum

Last week, The New England Council sent a letter to all members of the New England Congressional delegation urging them to support the Immigration Innovation Act, known as "I-Squared." As you know, this bipartisan legislation aims to address the shortage of highly-skilled workers in the STEM fields with both a short-term and a long-term solution. In the short term, the legislation would increase the cap on H-1B visas and make more STEM green cards available so that foreign-born STEM workers can remain in this country. I-Squared also addresses the longer-term need to develop a domestic pipeline of skilled STEM workers by reallocating the fees collected from those visas and green cards to support STEM education programs administered by the states.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE NEC'S LETTER.](#)

I-Squared already enjoys broad bipartisan support within the New England delegation, with Senators Richard Blumenthal, Jeanne Shaheen, Kelly Ayotte, and Angus King all co-sponsoring the bill. **We are pleased to report that we learned last week that Sen. Chris Murphy has also decided to sign on as a result of the NEC's letter.**

If you are interested in more information on I-Squared, or would like to be involved in the NEC's advocacy efforts around this bill, please contact either Emily Heisig (eheisig@newenglandcouncil.com) or Taylor Pichette (tpichette@newenglandcouncil.com).

Briefing on Cybersecurity Executive Order

Last week, in conjunction with the NEC's Annual Spring Event in Washington, DC, member law firm WilmerHale hosted a briefing for the NEC Energy & Environment and Technology Committees on the Cybersecurity Executive Order, featuring a presentation by Jeanette Manfra of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Ms. Manfra serves as the Deputy Director of the EO-PPD (Executive Order – Presidential Policy Directive) Integrated Task Force charged with implementing President Obama's recent Executive Order and Presidential Policy Directive on cybersecurity. A copy of Ms. Manfra's presentation is attached for those who were not able to attend, along with several other useful fact sheets that she provided.

We learned that DHS has staff based in New England who are also involved with the implementation of the Executive Order. We are exploring the possibility of another similar briefing in Boston so that more members are able to participate. We'll keep you posted on any developments.