



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

July 24, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to express support for the nomination of Michael Kratsios to be Associate Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and Chief Technology Officer of the United States. This position is crucial in directing your administration's pro-growth policies that maintain American economic competitiveness in the fields of science and technology.

Under your administration, the economy is surging thanks to deregulation and the passage of tax reform. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, over 2.6 million jobs were created in 2018, and nearly 5.5 million have been created since you took office. Job openings sit at 7.6 million, a record high. Between Q4 of 2017 and Q4 of 2018, GDP growth was 3.1 percent. GDP growth never reached 3 percent during your predecessor's administration, largely because of his 35 percent corporate tax rate. In October, the U.S. was named the most competitive economy in the world.

In support of your goals for economic growth, as Deputy Chief Technology Officer, Mr. Kratsios has shepherded free-market policies for rural broadband and fifth generation wireless deployment as well as the foundational technologies for artificial intelligence, quantum computing and the internet of things to become a reality in the United States first.

He understands that we will face continuous threats from tax hungry nations who have not created environments for innovation to flourish in the private sector. These attacks are especially obvious through the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Digital Services Tax (DST). These regulatory models are being shopped internationally to target successful American companies. We need leaders who are prepared for similar tactics that will be used to block American exceptionalism.

There is a huge advantage to being first to market with new technologies. We saw U.S. dominance in third and fourth generation wireless technologies as the first movers and achieved this through our competitive environment that encourages innovation in technologies and standards. **Mr. Kratsios knows that continued deregulation and clear guidance provide the right environment for success. The United States government does not need to follow a command and control model to set the high bar** for 5G, artificial intelligence, or machine-to-machine standards.

We fully support your nomination of Michael Kratsios to be Chief Technology Officer and look forward to expeditious confirmation from the Senate.

Onward,

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