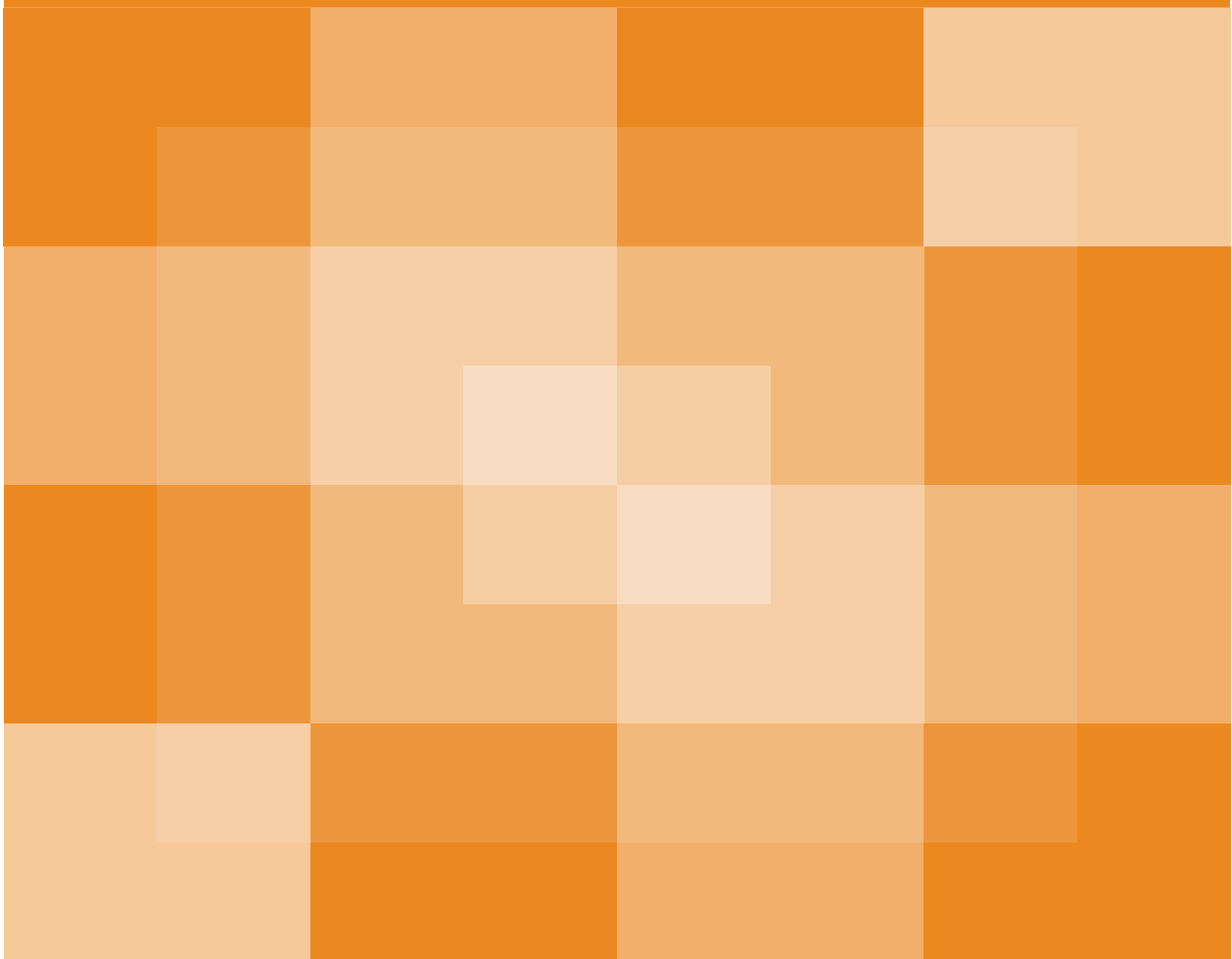




POLICY PLATFORM

===== 115th Congress =====



INCREASE FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH INITIATIVES TO GROW THE INNOVATION ECONOMY

Federal funding is essential to the innovation engine by advancing basic research that does not provide sufficient initial return to attract private investment. This research provides the backbone of our innovative edge and is the platform on which tomorrows jobs are built. CONNECT supports the designation of IP as critical infrastructure and continued investments in the NIH, NSF, DOD, DOE, and SBA, which solidify San Diego as a national innovation hub.

DRIVE INNOVATION WITH A STRONG PATENT SYSTEM

CONNECT works with our federal partners to strengthen the U.S. patent system and opposes measures that would undermine innovation, job creation, and the capability of emerging companies to thrive. CONNECT supports sensible reform to the patent system that would strengthen patent holders and their abilities to assert their patent rights. Congress must be diligent in dealing with the burden “patent trolls” put on the system but also ensure that any enacted legislation maintains existing patent rights for innovators and does not enact new provisions that would increase burdens. CONNECT supports immediately strengthening the patent system by stopping the diversion of fees from the USPTO.

MODERNIZE OUR TAX STRUCTURE TO INCENTIVIZE INNOVATION

A simple smart tax system is the foundation to growing innovation companies. CONNECT supports a tax code that encourages innovation start-ups by simplifying their reporting requirements while enhancing business growth through smart incentives. Congress should carve out new rules that encourage the creation and growth of startups in America, and that attract the capital these startups will need to expand. Congress should help emerging innovation companies attract investment by providing the necessary incentives for companies to invest offshore profits in early stage innovation and emerging technology companies in the U.S.

**HARNESS THE
POTENTIAL OF 5G
TO DRIVE THE NEXT
INNOVATION FRONTIER**

The next-generation mobile network is around the corner and will operate on a much higher-frequency of the radio spectrum providing speeds 10 to 100 times faster than today's broadband connections. Rapid 5G deployment will establish a platform for a quantum leap in innovation much like the invention of the iPhone. CONNECT supports Federal policies that free up new frontier spectrum and provide flexibility to support deployment of 5G technologies.

**BUILDING
TOMORROW'S
WORKFORCE TODAY**

While we continue to train our workforce to fill the jobs of tomorrow, San Diego innovators need talent today. Currently we are not meeting the demands of the region's companies to bring innovative ideas and companies to life. CONNECT supports expanding the H1-B visa program and raising the caps will close the innovation cap and drive tomorrow's disruptive ideas to market. STEM fields are making technological breakthroughs that directly impact San Diego residents. Congress must prioritize STEM education programs and funding ensuring American students lead the world in innovation. America's future in innovation also depends on arming our current workforce with the skills and techniques required by the innovation sector. CONNECT supports funding to enhance the capacity of talent and development institutions to re-skill the current labor force.

**REQUIRE AGENCIES WITH INNOVATION-
RELATED REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO
PROVIDE INNOVATION IMPACT STATEMENT FOR
PROPOSED REGULATIONS ECONOMY**

New regulation is often most burdensome to Innovation start-ups which invariably have fewer resources for compliance. CONNECT supports federal regulatory review that is required to consider the impact that new regulations have on small businesses. In addition, CONNECT supports policy that open avenues of capital to emerging innovation companies by simplifying reporting requirements and reducing administrative burden.

ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE COST-EFFECTIVE CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION TO BOOST ADVANCEMENTS IN CLEAN TECHNOLOGY & SUSTAINABILITY

CONNECT supports policy that encourages the creation of clean energy startups that will develop the next generation of energy solutions for America. Congress should fund programs that accelerate clean technology innovation and advance programs that provide sustainable solutions for the nation's energy and environmental needs.

FOSTER REGIONAL INNOVATION TO MEET NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY DEMANDS

One of the most important challenges to the innovation economy is protecting our critical digital infrastructure. As the cyber threat continues to increase in severity and sophistication, San Diego is a national leader in developing the capabilities of our cyber defenses to meet the standards required for tomorrow. CONNECT works with our federal partners to ensure all possible resources are engaged and aligned to bring maximum innovation to address this critical threat.

ENERGIZE REGIONAL INNOVATION IN BIOFUELS TO POWER THE COUNTRY

Algae technology is one of the most promising frontiers in biofuel and San Diego is home to many of the companies on the cutting edge of commercial algae development. Algae is poised to disrupt the agriculture and energy industries and CONNECT is working with our partners in Congress, the Departments of the Navy, Agriculture, and Energy to ensure that this pioneering research is funded and that government programs support San Diego companies continuing to lead in the development of algal fuels.

BUILD IOT INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET DEMAND

The world is now more connected than ever with utility meters, appliances, and sensors all controlled from mobile devices constantly improving to meet new demands. CONNECT encourages Congress to fund programs that develop the full potential of IoT and rapid deployment across the country.