December 9, 2016

The Honorable Mike Pence  
Office of President-elect Donald Trump  
1800 F Street NW, Room G117  
Washington, DC 20270-0117

Dear Vice President-elect Pence:

I am writing you on behalf of IPC—Association Connecting Electronics Industries to congratulate you and President-elect Donald Trump on your victory, and to share with you some of the key policy issues that we hope you, and the President-elect, will make a focus of your Administration.

Based in Bannockburn (Chicago), Illinois, IPC is a global industry association that represents more than 3,800 member companies that manufacture, assemble, specify and design printed circuit boards and electronics assemblies for defense, transportation, aerospace, industrial, medical, consumer and telecommunications equipment. Over 2,100 of our members are U.S.-based. They are in nearly every state and employ more than 800,000 people. Our core members are companies that manufacture printed circuit boards and assemblies, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), suppliers, government agencies, and academia. More than 60 percent of IPC member companies are small and medium-sized businesses. IPC is the industry’s leading source for technical standards, training and certification, market research, and public policy advocacy designed to support the needs of the $2 trillion global electronics industry.

IPC classifies our policy priorities into three main categories: Promoting a 21st Century Economy; Driving Technological Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing; and Advocating for Smart Regulation and Environmental Policy. Within each category are several specific policy priorities that IPC advocates for on behalf of our members.

**Promoting a 21st Century Economy and Workforce**

IPC members support policies that drive broad-based economic growth and competitiveness. Among its priorities, IPC advocates for lower corporate tax rates and incentives that stimulate business investment, and for international trade agreements to advance open and fair trade between countries. IPC — itself a provider of many education and training opportunities — endorses ambitious workforce development initiatives, especially in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). We support immigration policies that allow for international mobility among highly-skilled workers to ensure that companies have access to the talent they need to be globally competitive. IPC continues to promote strong intellectual property protection and strives to prevent counterfeit products in the supply chain through our standards and advocacy.
Driving Technological Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing
For more than 60 years, IPC members have supplied high-reliability electronics for defense, transportation, aerospace, industrial, medical, and other applications. Staying competitive in this environment requires continuous investment in basic and applied research and development (R&D). For this reason, IPC advocates for government initiatives that bolster R&D and advanced manufacturing. For example, IPC is a strong supporter of public-private partnerships such as those established through the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) in the United States and the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany.

Advocating for Smart Regulation and Environmental Policy
Manufacturers in many parts of the world face a complex and overwhelming regulatory compliance burden, negatively impacting their abilities to develop innovative technology, create jobs, and compete in a global marketplace. Environmental regulations in particular are often unnecessarily burdensome and/or lack scientific support. IPC strongly supports efforts among governments to reform their regulatory processes to ensure greater public scrutiny and a balance among risks, costs and benefits based on the best available scientific research. IPC also supports voluntary environmental initiatives and thorough, life-cycle evaluations of substances and their alternatives prior to any restrictions.

We look forward to working with you, President-elect Trump, and the Administration on these policy issues that are so vital to a robust American economy. If you have any questions, or if IPC can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 847-597-2811 or johnmitchell@ipc.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. John Mitchell
President & CEO
IPC—Association Connecting Electronics Industries