



June 30, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

My name is Matt Copel, and I write to you as the President of the Materials Research Society (MRS). I urge the Administration to rescind the Presidential Proclamation Number 152 enacted on June 22, 2020 entitled “Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak.” This Presidential Action on visas and immigration suspends the issuance of H-1B visas, H-2B visas, H-4 visas, L-1 visas and certain J-1 temporary worker visas through the end of 2020. It will have a negative impact on the ability of scientists and engineers in industry and academia to enter, or leave from and return to, the United States. This action will have a deleterious impact on the U.S. science and engineering output, causing harm to the American scientific enterprise.

Scientific progress depends on openness, transparency, and the free flow of ideas and people, and these principles have helped the United States attract and richly benefit from international scientific talent. With these announced restrictions, America’s leadership in science, education and innovation is severely threatened.

In order to remain the world leader in advancing scientific knowledge and innovations, the U.S. science and technology enterprise must continue to capitalize on the international and multicultural environment within which we have thrived. This Presidential Action will discourage many of the best and brightest international students, scholars, engineers and scientists from studying and working, attending academic and scientific conferences, or seeking to build new businesses in the United States. Implementation of this policy will compromise the United States’ ability to attract international scientific talent and maintain scientific and economic leadership.

The United States admits approximately 3.9 million people each year on nonimmigrant visas for temporary workers, trainees, and their families. Of those annual nonimmigrant admittances, the June 22 proclamation would affect approximately 525,000 prospective applicants should it be extended through the end of the government's fiscal year in 2021, negatively affecting the US economy.

I urge the Administration to rescind this Proclamation. MRS welcomes the opportunity to discuss how immigration and visa policy can advance U.S. prosperity.

Based in Warrendale, Pennsylvania, MRS is a scientific society comprised of over 15,500 researchers from academia, industry and government, and is a recognized leader in the advancement of interdisciplinary materials research. MRS members come from over 90 countries worldwide and are at the forefront of research and teaching in the fields of materials science, physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics and engineering.

We look forward to a dialogue with you concerning this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Damon Dozier, MRS Director of Government Affairs at 202.763.3814 or [dozier@mrs.org](mailto:dozier@mrs.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Copel', with a long, sweeping underline.

Matt Copel  
President  
Materials Research Society