ASCE Resolution

VISAS AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Approved by the Public Policy Committee on February 2, 2017
Adopted by the Executive Committee of the Board on Direction on February 3, 2017

WHEREAS, progress in science and engineering depends on openness, transparency, and the free flow of ideas; and

WHEREAS, the United States has always attracted and benefited from international scientific and engineering talent because of these principles; and

WHEREAS, the fostering of safe and responsible research is essential for scientific and engineering advancement, national prosperity, and international security; and

WHEREAS, a strong visa process is vital to our nation’s security; and

WHEREAS, an overly restrictive and/or arbitrary ban on the entry or return of individuals from any participating country can be is damaging, both in the terms of scientific and engineering progress as well as in economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, history has shown that the growth and prosperity of the United States has been built on the talents, dedication, knowledge, and ideas of people from nations around the globe;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) urges the Federal government, through policies and actions, to make it clear to the world that the United States continues to welcome qualified individuals from all countries to study, teach, work, create jobs and carry out the research and scholarship and other activities that will enhance our health, safety and welfare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASCE urges the Administration, Congress, and interested parties to work together to develop sound policies that ensure our visa system prevents entry by those who wish to harm us, while maintaining the inflow of talent that has contributed so much to our nation.

ASCE Resolution 551
First Approved 2017