

# Taking Action for America

## A CEO PLAN FOR JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



BRT CEOs believe that America possesses enormous strengths, including a large and sophisticated internal market; abundant natural resources; and a culture that values hard work, investment and entrepreneurship. They believe that, while the urgency of the nation's current condition is very real, the United States and its people have the wherewithal to "Take Action for America" and address these challenges head on.

The recommendations in "Taking Action for America: A CEO Plan for Jobs and Economic Growth," which are summarized below, are a blueprint for American recovery that will create a robust platform for business investment, economic growth, enhanced U.S. competitiveness and greater opportunity for all Americans.

AMERICAN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP		
	<b>Sound Fiscal Policy</b>	Stabilize and reduce the federal debt relative to the size of the economy by achieving a balanced federal budget, excluding interest payments on the debt, within the next five years.
	<b>Smarter Regulation</b>	Streamline the regulatory process, require cost-benefit analyses of all federal regulatory agencies, encourage early engagement with regulated industries and establish a Transparency Portal that enables the public to track the progress of federal permits.
	<b>Competitive Taxation</b>	Adopt a competitive U.S. corporate tax rate comparable to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development average and a competitive territorial tax system similar to the rest of the world.
AMERICAN ADVANTAGES		
	<b>Open Markets for International Trade and Investment</b>	Develop and actively pursue international trade, investment and regulatory initiatives to help U.S. companies and workers increase their competitiveness in international markets and ensure that U.S. and foreign markets remain open for trade and investment.
	<b>Reliable, Affordable Energy</b>	Adopt a coherent national energy strategy that makes U.S. energy systems more diverse, more domestic and more efficient.
	<b>Protecting U.S. Technology Assets with Effective Cybersecurity</b>	Integrate the full resources of the U.S. government to protect America's strategic information systems; develop flexible, responsive and collaborative public-private partnerships to share information and coordinate responses; and provide U.S. businesses with the tools they need to combat global cybersecurity threats.
	<b>Contributions of Highly Educated World Talent</b>	Reform America's employment-based immigration system so that it welcomes top world talent and all the great benefits they bring for U.S. economic growth and job creation — especially foreign nationals who have graduated from a U.S. university with an advanced STEM degree.
AMERICAN WORKERS AND FAMILIES		
	<b>A Skilled, Prepared Workforce</b>	Prioritize education and workforce reforms in the next year to achieve the greatest impact, including Common Core State Standards; data and accountability systems that are tied to the Common Core; teacher training and support, with a focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), K-12 and postsecondary education, and ensuring every 8-year-old can read; and aligning community college technical skills training to business needs.
	<b>Affordable, Quality Health Care</b>	Empower consumers with health care cost and quality information; fix what is wrong with the current health care law — including eliminating duplicative requirements and unnecessary taxes on medical devices, insurance plans and pharmaceuticals; enact medical liability reform; and promote competition.
	<b>Stable Policies that Ensure Retirement Security</b>	Preserve tax incentives that encourage employers and employees to contribute to retirement plans; reform federal entitlement programs to achieve long-term fiscal balance; and avoid pension funding rules that impose volatile and untimely contribution requirements on employers, especially in the current economic climate.

*"Businesses know how to create jobs, create value, and win in a diverse global market. Most CEOs believe the fundamental engine of American business is sound. If Washington and business can once again find the ability to get aligned on fundamental priorities, American business will once again unleash America's economic potential."*

**W. James McNerney, Jr.,**  
Chairman, President and CEO, The Boeing Company, and Chairman, Business Roundtable

Learn more at [www.brt.org/takingaction](http://www.brt.org/takingaction).