S. Joe Bhatia
President and CEO
American National Standards Institute

Good morning, everyone.

My name is Joe Bhatia, and I am president and CEO of the American National Standards Institute. It is my pleasure to be here today.

For those of you who are not familiar with ANSI, we are the coordinator of the U.S. private-sector led and public sector-supported voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment system. ANSI speaks as the U.S. voice in standardization forums around the globe. And through our network of members, we represent the interests of more than 125,000 companies and 3.5 million professionals worldwide.

ANSI is pleased to partner with the Bureau of Indian Standards, the Confederation of Indian Industry, and the National Fire Protection Association, to welcome you to today's workshop as part of our U.S.–India Standards and Conformance Cooperation Program (SCCP).

To facilitate trade, investment, and technical exchange between the U.S. and India, the SCCP is built upon a strong foundation of collaboration and mutual understanding. SCCP aims to improve access for U.S. companies to the Indian market, and vice-versa, by boosting cooperation on standards and conformance issues.

SCCP consists of three main components:

- A standards directory intended to serve as the foundation for a comprehensive directory of market access and market acceptance requirements in the U.S.;
- A series of sector-specific workshops, like this one, that bring together industry and technical experts to address regulatory issues offering the opportunity for U.S. and Indian organizations to participate in technical discussions; and
- The U.S. – India Standards Portal, an online resource that facilitates international trade by helping companies better understand the standards, regulatory, and conformance related technical requirements that they face around the world.

ANSI and CII have also begun work on developing an issue matrix that will record areas of interest and concern within both industry and the standardization community in the U.S. and India. The issue matrix will be linked from the StandardsPortal, updated regularly, and will help track questions and concerns in order to address stakeholder needs.

Each of these components are a critical piece of an overall information infrastructure that supports and facilitates cooperation between U.S. and Indian stakeholders . . . from individual organizations and companies to government agencies, ministries and entire industry sectors.

Together, ANSI, BIS, and CII are making a commitment to empower U.S. and Indian stakeholders with the standards and conformity assessment information resources they need.

I look forward to listening to today's workshop presenters, and joining you in discussing how we can better share information and build lasting partnerships. Thank you very much for your attention and for your participation in the SCCP.

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