

Council Seeks Input on Boosting U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation

The United States-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) is inviting stakeholders, Americans and Canadians alike, to contribute their views on how to reinforce, institutionalize, and expand efforts at regulatory cooperation between the United States and Canada.

Since RCC's inception, consultations with the public have been of paramount importance to the work of the RCC. In August 2011, RCC released its *summary on what Canadians told the council*. These findings helped guide the development of the RCC's initial *Joint Action Plan*, which was released in December 2011.

Since the RCC was created in February 2011, the United States and Canada have made significant progress toward reducing barriers to trade and moving goods across the shared border with fewer delays and less paperwork.

The goal of the RCC is to better align U.S. and Canadian regulatory systems to benefit producers, manufacturers and consumers. Lack of alignment between regulations creates duplication of effort for manufacturers, which results in higher costs and delays in moving goods across the border.

Progress

Progress has been made on 29 initiatives, including:

- an agreement between the U.S. Department of Transportation and Transport Canada to harmonize certain vehicle safety standards;
- an agreement between the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Adminis-

tration and Health Canada to collaborate on implementing common workplace chemical classifications; and

- an agreement between the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection



Service and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to draft a cooperative framework aimed at protecting the United States and Canada from plant pests and invasive species.

U.S.-Canada Highlights

The United States and Canada enjoy the largest bilateral trade and investment relationship in the world (\$1.2 trillion). U.S.-Canada bilateral trade in goods and services surpassed \$742.8 billion in 2012, with \$2 billion worth of goods and services crossing the U.S.-Canada border daily. This is the equivalent of \$1.4 million traded every minute.

Canada has remained California's second largest export market since 2006, with a total value of almost \$17.3 billion in 2012 (11% of all California exports).

Computers and electronic products remained California's largest exports, accounting for 31% of all California exports to Canada. Exports of agricultural products and food manufactures from California to Canada grew to total almost \$3.6 billion, with transportation equipment and chemicals continuing to be strong export sectors as well.

Related: Beyond the Border Action Plan

On July 31, Caron Wilson, policy adviser with Canada's Privy Council Office, shared details on the Beyond the Border Action Plan between the United States and Canada during an International Roundtable at the California Chamber of Commerce. That plan encompasses

four key areas of cooperation, including about 30 specific initiatives:

- addressing border threats early;
- facilitating trade, economic growth and jobs;
- integrating cross-border law enforcement; and
- establishing critical infrastructure and cybersecurity.

Request for Input

Consideration of further RCC work is now underway. Input is being sought from stakeholders in the United States and Canada. See the U.S. *Federal Register* and www.regulations.gov (type keyword "Regulatory Cooperation Council" or Docket ID# OMB-2013-0004). These highlight a number of key areas where the RCC is seeking input.

Submissions through these processes will be accepted until October 11, 2013. All input will be shared with RCC officials in both countries as options are evaluated for regulatory cooperation going forward.

For further information, see www.calchamber.com/Canada.

Staff Contact: Susanne Stirling