

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



August 24, 2015

To: Members of the California Congressional Delegation

**From: (Mrs.) Susanne T. Stirling
Vice President, International Affairs
California Chamber of Commerce**

Re: Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) - Support

On behalf of the California Chamber of Commerce, our California Council for International Trade would like to reiterate our support for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

The California Chamber of Commerce, established in 1890, is the largest, broad-based business advocate that works at both state and federal levels to influence government actions affecting all California businesses. Our members include more than 13,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, as well as 300 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations. Our members employ one-fourth of the private sector workforce in California. Through its grassroots action program, the California Chamber reaches out to a statewide network of 430,000 small business owners.

The CalChamber, in keeping with long-standing policy, enthusiastically supports free trade worldwide, expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

The Transatlantic economic partnership is a key driver of global economic growth, trade and prosperity, and represents the largest, most integrated and longest-standing regional economic relationship in the world. According to a 2015 study by the British Embassy in Washington, the Bertelsmann Foundation, and the Atlantic Council, the EU-US relationship supports a combined 13 million jobs and nearly \$3.9 trillion in investment, and represents 45 percent of global GDP. The trans-Atlantic relationship defines the shape of the global economy as a whole; either the European Union or the United States also is the largest trade and investment partner for almost all other countries.

According to the World Bank, the EU market represents 508.3 million people, and has a total GDP of \$18.5 trillion. The United States has 318.9 million people and a GDP of \$17.4 trillion. Total bilateral goods trade between the European Union and United States was \$694.3 billion in 2014, with the United States exporting \$276.1 billion worth of goods to EU member nations.

California exports to the European Union in 2014 totaled \$29.6 billion. California is one of the top exporting states to Europe, with computers, electronic products and chemical manufactures as the state's leading export sectors to the region. EU countries purchase 17% of all California exports. For California companies, the single market presents a stable market with huge opportunity.

A free trade agreement could increase economic output and the GDP in the long term, benefiting industries ranging from chemicals to automakers. EU-U.S. commercial links are unrivaled. Total U.S. annual investment in the EU is higher than in all of Asia, while EU investment in the U.S. far outstrips EU investment in India and China combined.