

Merger Creates CalChamber Council for International Trade



The California Chamber of Commerce this week announced that the California Council for International Trade (CCIT) has joined the CalChamber International Trade Committee to form

the California Chamber of Commerce Council for International Trade.

The CalChamber Council for International Trade will boost the ability of California businesses and organizations to advocate sound international business policies by bringing together the two leading trade policy organizations in the state to form a single unified group of business leaders on international issues.

Support for Trade

“We are at a historic time to take action on several free trade agreements pending before Congress,” said Allan Zarembeg, CalChamber president and chief executive officer. “The merged CalChamber Council for International Trade will enhance our ongoing work with state and federal administrations and lawmakers to influence international business policies that support California’s global success, job creation and sustainability.”

International trade is vital to California’s economy. In fact, exports from California accounted for 12 percent of total

U.S. exports in 2006. California trade and exports translate into high-paying jobs for more than one million Californians.

“We are pleased that the CalChamber will help to further CCIT’s mission with greater organizational resources, thereby improving our joint impact on sound and responsible international trade policy,” said Susan Corrales-Diaz, CalChamber Board member, chair of the CalChamber International Trade Committee and president of Systems Integrated. “California business and trade leadership on domestic and global issues remains a key in fostering California competitiveness.”

CCIT

Throughout its long history, CCIT has been a dedicated statewide coalition of California’s leading voices supporting free and open international trade policy. CCIT’s partners include:

- large and small manufacturers;
- exporters and importers;
- providers of financial, technological, transportation and entertainment services;
- educators;
- non-profit and governmental economic development agencies; and
- former federal and state trade officials.

For more than half a century, the CCIT has been the only statewide organization solely dedicated to advocating sound U.S.

trade policy to open foreign markets for the benefit of West Coast producers of goods and services that need those markets to fuel jobs and economic growth.

California Trade

California is one of the 10 largest economies in the world with a gross state product of more than \$1.7 trillion. International-related commerce accounts for approximately one-quarter of the state’s economy. Although trade is a nationally determined policy issue, its impact on California is immense. In 2006, California exported to 224 foreign markets.

The state leads the nation in export-related jobs. California’s top trading partners are Mexico, Canada, Japan, China and South Korea. About one in seven jobs in California is related to trade, with every million-dollar increase in trade equaling 11 new jobs, according to the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

CalChamber Position

The CalChamber, in keeping with longstanding 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.

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U.S.-Korea Agreement Will Increase Trade/Investment, Report Finds

The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA), supported by the California Chamber of Commerce, will give a substantial boost to various trade sectors, according to a newly released report.

According to the report from the International Trade Commission (ITC), the U.S.-Korea FTA, if fully implemented, will have a substantial impact on areas such as bilateral trade in goods and services, procedures governing trade and investment, and the regulatory environment. Approval of the agreement is pending before Congress.

The comprehensive summary evaluates the agreement and its impact on the U.S. economy and on specific industry sectors and consumers, as well as the

changes the agreement makes to U.S. and Korean tariffs.

The ITC estimated that the FTA would result in increased gross domestic product, merchandise exports and imports, U.S. service exports, and that aggregate U.S. output and employment changes would likely be negligible.

Agricultural exports to Korea also would increase, along with exports in machinery, transportation, textiles, apparel and electronics, primarily because of the removal of high-tariff and tariff-rate quotas, FTA-induced improvements in Korea’s regulatory environment and tariff reductions.

The report found that the services sector in Korea also will increase as a result

of the FTA because Korea has agreed to provide levels of market access, national treatment and regulatory transparency that would exceed levels currently afforded to the United States.

The CalChamber believes new multilateral, sectoral and regional trade agreements ensure that the United States may continue to gain access to world markets, resulting in an improved economy and additional employment of Americans.

The U.S.-Korea FTA will send a strong signal that the United States intends to remain heavily engaged in the region for a long time to come in business, economics, security and international politics.

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