

# CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

JENNIFER BARRERA

President and Chief Executive Officer



August 11, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St., NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On behalf of the California Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our support of California hosting the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Summit in Fall 2023.

California is the fifth largest economy in the world with a gross state product of over \$3 trillion and we have long-standing and deep ties to the Pacific region. International trade and investment are major parts of our economic engine that broadly benefit businesses, communities, consumers and government. It is also one of our state's key competitive advantages. California's economy and population are diverse, and the state's prosperity is tied to exports and imports of both goods and services by California-based companies, to exports and imports through our transportation gateways, and to movement of human and capital resources.

As you may know, the California Chamber of Commerce is a broad-based nonprofit membership organization through which business, industry and agriculture join forces to work toward positive action on key issues that affect California's economic climate. The organization, established in 1890, is the largest and most broadly based employer representative in California. Our members include over 14,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, representing three million jobs-- as well as 300 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations.

Although trade is a nationally determined policy issue, its impact on California is immense. In 2021, California exported over \$175 billion to 226 foreign markets. Our state's total trade with APEC was over \$472.5 billion in goods, making California the top importing state from APEC and the second largest exporting state to the region. In addition, our state has vast and well-established relationships with the peoples of both Asia and the Americas who are valued APEC members.

With our trade and investment connections to the Pacific Rim, together with our historical and cultural ties to the region – California is a natural choice to host the APEC Summit. We have several major metropolitan areas which would be ideal for this important international annual gathering of leaders of the 21 Asia Pacific economies. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Barrera".

Jennifer Barrera  
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senator  
The Honorable Alex Padilla, United States Senator  
The Honorable Eleni Kounalakis, California Lieutenant Governor  
The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles  
Mr. Jim Deboo, Office of the Governor

JB:STS:ne