

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



January 12, 2012

The Honorable Ron Kirk
US Trade Representative
Washington, DC 20005

VIA Electronic Submission

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

RE: Canada's Expression of Interest in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Negotiations

We, the undersigned companies and business organizations of the California Coalition for Free Trade, strongly support Canada's participation in the Trans-Pacific (TPP) Trade Agreement negotiations. Agreements like this would ensure that the United States may continue to gain access to world markets, which will result in an improved economy and additional employment of Americans.

As Canada and the U.S. are each other's largest export markets, allies and close partners on major global issues, we feel that Canadian participation in the TPP would only further enhance our bilateral relationship.

Currently, more than 8 million U.S. jobs depend on trade with Canada. North American economic recovery and growth depend on a strong trade relationship between Canada and the U.S., and Canada's inclusion in the TPP would create more opportunities for our companies and make us more competitive in Asian markets.

Furthermore, Canada is prepared to stand alongside the U.S. as one of the most ambitious countries in the TPP negotiations and they are committed to discussing all topics at the table.

The California Coalition for Free Trade was initiated in May of 2008 by the California Chamber of Commerce Council for International Trade. This group of California companies and business organizations believe that opening markets and promoting trade rules are critical for California's economy. The California Coalition for Free Trade is a broad-based group of companies and business organizations working to secure a national free trade agenda.

California is one of the ten largest economies in the world with a gross state product of approximately \$1.9 trillion. International related commerce accounts for approximately one-quarter of the state's economy

The Asia-Pacific region is a key driver of global economic growth, representing nearly 60 percent of global GDP and roughly 50 percent of international trade. Since 1990, Asia-Pacific goods trade has increased by 300 percent, while global investment in the region has increased by over 400 percent. U.S. trade with Asian countries totals nearly \$1 trillion annually.

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Even though U.S. exports to Asia continue to rise, the United States is gradually losing market share. Asian countries have negotiated more than 160 trade agreements among themselves, while the United States has signed only three with regional countries (Korea, Singapore and Australia).

Because of our location covering the majority of the west coast of the lower 48, California has much to gain with this Agreement. In 2010, California exported almost \$12 billion to these select countries, roughly 14 percent of the United States' exports.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement will bring real benefits for US workers and businesses and help maintain America's leadership position in an increasingly competitive global environment. The addition of Canada to the agreement will benefit those of us in California and the United States as a whole, and we thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

The California Coalition for Free Trade
(members listed below)

California Coalition for Free Trade Member Companies

- Applied Materials, Inc.
- Arrowhead Credit Union
 - Bear Creek Winery
 - Blue Diamond Growers
- California Business Ventures
- Cange International Inc.
 - Caterpillar Inc.
 - Chevron
 - Citigroup, Inc.
- CNA Insurance Companies
 - De Avila Law Firm
 - DHL Express
 - East Bay CITD
 - El Camino College CITD
- Express Employment Professionals
- Fernandez Barragan & Associates
 - Fillner Construction Inc.
 - Foxx Hunter Farms
 - Gathers Strategies, Inc.
 - General Electric
- HBLA Certified Public Accountant
 - Hewlett Packard
- Hitchcock Automotive Resources
- Hitchcock Commercial Properties
- Holtouse, Carlin & VanTright
 - Hunter International
 - Intel Corporation
- International Information Specialists
- International Technical Services
 - Ironstone Vineyards
- Irvine Chamber of Commerce
 - John Kautz Farms
 - Kikkoman Foods Inc.
- LA Metro Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
- Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Lyles Diversified, Inc.
 - McKenna, Long & Aldridge
 - Merrill Lynch - Mill Valley
- Montebello Chamber of Commerce
- Monterey Bay International Trade Assn
 - Moon Shot Communications
 - North County BMW
- Northern California World Trade Center
 - Northridge Toyota
- OceanWind International Inc.
- Oliva Global Communications
 - Oracle Corporation
- Orange County Bus. Council
 - Otis McAllister, Inc.
 - Pacific Resources
 - Paramount Farms
- Paulson Manufacturing Corporation
 - Puente Hills Toyota
 - RB International
 - Ruiz Foods
 - Safeway, Inc.
- San Dimas Chamber of Commerce
 - Silicon Valley CITD
 - South Bay BMW
- So. Orange Cty Reg Chambers of Commerce
 - SunWest Foods, Inc
 - The Boeing Company
 - The California Parks Co.
- The Dow Chemical Company
 - Toyota of Santa Barbara
 - Voiland Enterprises
 - WJ Byrnes & Co.