

February 7, 2011

The Honorable David Camp, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC. 20510

Dear Chairman Camp,

Re: Wednesday, February 9, 2011 Hearing on President Obama's Trade Policy Agenda

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

As the President continues his support for the National Export Initiative (NEI), a multi-year effort to increase U.S. jobs by increasing the number of companies exporting and expanding the number of markets to which U.S. companies are selling, we are pleased to be able to comment per the attached document on the importance of a sound US trade policy agenda.

California is one of the 10 largest economies in the world with a GSP of over \$1.8 trillion. International related commerce (including exports and imports of goods and services) accounts for approximately one-quarter of the state's economy. California maintains its perennial position as a top exporting state and we lead the nation in export-related jobs. California exports amount to over \$120 billion annually. Although trade is a nationally determined policy issue, its impact on California is immense. California exports to over 220 foreign markets. Trade offers the opportunity to expand the role of California's exports. In its broadest terms, trade can literally feed the world and raise the living standards of those around us.

The California Chamber of Commerce is a broad-based, non-profit membership organization through which business, industry and agriculture join forces to work for positive action on key legislation and regulatory issues affecting California's economic and job climate. International trade is one of our highest priorities.

The organization, established in 1890, is the largest and most broadly based employer representative in Sacramento. Its members include more than 16,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, as well as 450 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations. Through its grassroots action program, the California Chamber reaches out to a statewide network of 430,000 small business owners.

The California Chamber also offers a variety of services to help businesses comply with complex laws and regulations, as well as compete in the international marketplace.

The CalChamber supports allowing California companies to compete more effectively in foreign markets, as well as to attract foreign business to California. We appreciate your consideration of our positions.

Sincerely,



Allan Zaremborg

Attachment