

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



October 15, 2008

Mr. Garrett Ashley
Undersecretary for International Trade
CA Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
980 9th Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Garrett:

On behalf of the Council for International Trade (CIT) of the California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber), this is an open letter as you depart your position as Undersecretary for International Trade with the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency as a part of the Governor Schwarzenegger Administration.

You have been a "Champion of Trade" for California and a wonderful representative for this Administration. In particular you have been a strong advocate for the proposed California Trade and Investment Strategy: Potential Roles for the State in Global Market Development. This Strategy is key to increasing jobs by promoting the export of California products and services of which our organization is very supportive.

As you know, the California Chamber 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 Sacramento. Its members include over 16,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, representing three million jobs--one quarter of the state's private sector workforce, 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 approximately 430,000 small business owners.

The California Chamber supports 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.