



ALLAN ZAREMBERG
President and Chief Executive Officer

January 11, 2010

The Honorable Ron Kirk
US Trade Representative
Washington, DC 20005

VIA Electronic Submission

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

RE: Support of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement

The California Chamber of Commerce strongly supports continuing negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement with active United States participation. 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 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 15,000 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.

California is one of the ten largest economies in the world with a gross state product of approximately \$1.8 trillion. International related commerce accounts for approximately one-quarter of the state's economy. Export-supported jobs account for more than 10 percent of California's total private sector employment - about one in 10 jobs.

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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 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.

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. The average GDP growth rate in the rapidly growing and dynamic countries in this region was 5.3 percent in 2007, compared with the world average of 3.8 percent. 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.

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 two with regional countries (Singapore and Australia). A third agreement, with Korea, awaits congressional approval.

Because of our location covering the majority of the west coast of the lower 48, California has much to gain with this Agreement. In 2008, California exported over \$10 billion to these select countries, roughly 15 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 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 piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Zaremborg', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Allan Zaremborg

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