

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MYRON A. BRILLIANT  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND  
HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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January 19, 2021

The Honorable James E. Risch  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Menendez  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Menendez:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the nomination of Antony Blinken to be Secretary of State. He is an exceptionally well-qualified nominee, and, from the perspective of the U.S. business community, he is admirably prepared to tackle the national security and international economic policy challenges facing the U.S.

Blinken's prior service as Deputy Secretary of State, Deputy National Security Advisor, and Staff Director for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations represents an invaluable body of experience upon which he can draw as America's top diplomat. During his earlier service, he took into account the perspectives of a variety of stakeholders, including the U.S. business community, and we are confident he would do so if confirmed as Secretary of State.

The work of the U.S. Department of State is critical to national security, the advancement of American values around the globe, and to supporting U.S. economic and trade interests. The diplomats who direct the Department's work fulfill an indispensable role helping partners and allies abroad to build stronger political, legal, and economic policy systems. This in turn helps these nations to become more reliable trading partners, promoting their prosperity and our own.

The economic statecraft directed by the Secretary of State is vital to the U.S. business community, and Blinken's long record of accomplishment demonstrates that he understands this. The Chamber urges the Committee on Foreign Relations to consider his nomination favorably and expeditiously.

Sincerely,



Myron Brilliant

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations