

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports the "Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015" (customs reauthorization). This legislation would facilitate trade, improve customs enforcement, advance government agency cooperation, enhance enforcement of intellectual property rights, and set the global standard for border management.

U.S. businesses rely on predictable supply chains to access international consumers and compete in the global marketplace. Customs reauthorization would make improvements to address cross-border friction, smooth the flow of trade, and ensure efficient delivery of inputs and final products. Implementing these reforms would increase the competitiveness of U.S. businesses and unleash the potential for small- and medium-sized businesses to access foreign markets. This bill would also take common sense steps to improve security.

The legislation would also enhance the capabilities of Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to protect American intellectual property rights (IPR) and innovation. More than 40 million American jobs and 62 percent of U.S. exports depend on intellectual property-intensive industries. To protect these workers and companies, the legislation would provide authority, resources, and authorization for the National IPR Coordination Center.

The recent movement in the House to conference with the Senate was a welcome step. The Chamber urges Congress to find the necessary pro-business solutions on outstanding issues and pass this bipartisan legislation this year.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten