

KEY VOTE ALERT!

February 9, 2016

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports the conference report to accompany 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. The House took action in December, passing the legislation with bipartisan support.

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 legislation would additionally take common sense steps to improve security.

This legislation would 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, this legislation would provide authority, resources, and authorization for the National IPR Coordination Center.

The Chamber urges the Senate to quickly adopt the conference report as it was passed by the House and supports procedural votes that will allow it to be sent to the President by the end of this week. The Chamber will consider including votes on, or in relation to, this legislation in our annual *How They Voted* scorecard.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten



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