

September 26, 2007

Dear Congressman/Senator:

Participation in the global economy has provided significant and important benefits for the United States. Many in the United States, however, have concerns about the impact that globalization in general and trade with China in particular are having on jobs and economic security. We recognize that some parts of the U.S. economy have faced substantially increased competition. We agree that constructive efforts should be pursued vigorously to address such concerns and increase the benefits from engagement in the international economy for all Americans. We urge you to seek solutions that advance international engagement and promote America's broad interests, while at the same time pursuing policies and programs designed to prepare American workers to remain the most productive and competitive in the world. Conversely, we believe that adopting retaliatory measures, such as increasing tariffs or assessing user fees on imports, will do more harm than good.

Our companies and the millions of workers we employ collectively represent all major sectors of the U.S. economy and benefit substantially from the global trading system. International trade and investment have helped us to expand into markets outside of the United States and to access raw materials, inputs and finished products that make our companies and workers more globally competitive, while providing important benefits to consumers here in the United States. While the United States will always be an important market for us, access to international markets means that U.S. farmers, manufacturers and service providers are able to expand sales to new customers, increasing activities here in the United States and abroad.

The benefits of participation in the international economy go beyond increased economic activity and the generation of high-quality jobs in the United States. U.S. companies bring their global employment practices and environmental, health and safety standards to facilities in China and around the world. That helps to improve the quality of life for all.

Advancing America's interests requires eliminating barriers abroad and increasing our competitiveness at home. For example, China has already made major advances in implementing its World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments in a manner that has benefited nearly all major sectors of the U.S. economy. Additional and continued progress is needed. As well, policies that address U.S. competitiveness, worker education and retraining, and health care are needed as part of an effective and balanced response to the challenges of the global economy.

Conversely, policies that single out individual countries as responsible for the United States' broader concerns will not be effective and should be rejected, as should approaches that violate the United States' own international obligations or that improperly restrict access to the U.S. market. Doing so can only undermine U.S. credibility and competitiveness and put U.S. exports at substantial risk of retaliatory action. Imposing unfair barriers to trade in the name of currency valuation or product safety is not a solution to the underlying concerns, and it ultimately undermines the important work that should be undertaken to prepare our economy and our workers for the realities of the global economy.

Our economy is the most competitive and productive in the world. We will maintain that position only if we rise to the economic challenges we face while keeping the U.S. market open and our focus on expanding trade opportunities for American workers, farmers and service providers.

Respectfully,

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AdvaMed - Advanced Medical Technology
Association
adidas
Affinity Marketing, LLC
Albany International Corp.
Alcatel-Lucent
Altria Group, Inc.
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Council of Life Insurers
American Electronics Association (AeA)
American Insurance Association
American International Group, Inc. (AIG)
American Signature, Inc.
Amway Corporation
Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.
APL Limited
Applied Materials
AutoZone, Inc.
Barbara Franklin Enterprises
Bechtel Corporation
Best Buy Co., Inc.
The Boeing Company
Boston Scientific Corporation
Brass Key, Inc.
Brooks Sports
Business Roundtable
Cadbury Schweppes
Cargill, Incorporated
Case New Holland
Caterpillar Inc.
Celanese
Chevron
China Pacific Group, Inc.
Chindex International, Inc.
Chrysler LLC
The Chubb Corporation
Citigroup, Inc.
Coalition for Employment Through Exports
Coalition of New England Companies for
Trade
Coalition of Service Industries
The Coca-Cola Company
Computing Technology Industry Association
(CompTIA)
Consumer Electronics Association
Consuming Industries Trade Action Coalition
Corporate Computer, Inc.
Crane International Inc.
Cummins Inc.
Cutter & Buck
Deb Shops, Inc.
Deckers Outdoor Corp.
Design Resources, Inc.
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
The Dow Chemical Company
DRI DUCK Traders
DuPont
Eastman Kodak Company
EDS
Emerald Home Furnishings
Emergency Committee for American Trade
Emerson
Exxon Mobil Corporation
FedEx
Financial Services Forum
Financial Services Roundtable
Fluor
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of
America
Ford Motor Company
Gap Inc.
General Electric Company
General Mills
General Motors Corporation
Grocery Manufacturers/Food Products
Association
Hewlett-Packard Company
The Home Depot
Honeywell
Hormel Foods Corporation
IBM Corporation
Independent Bakers Association
Information Technology Association of
America
Information Technology Industry Council
Ingersoll Rand Company Ltd.
Intel Corporation
ITT Corporation
J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc.
J.C. Penney Purchasing Corporation
J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.
Johnson & Johnson
LFI International
Liz Claiborne, Inc.
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Maritime Products International
Mary Kay Inc.
Matrix Advisors, LLC
The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Microsoft Corporation
Morgan Stanley
Motorola, Inc.
The National Fisheries Institute
National Foreign Trade Council
National Retail Federation
New York Life
Newell Rubbermaid
NIKE Inc.
Northwest Laboratories Inc.
Office Depot
One Step Up
Oracle Corporation
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and
Freight Forwarders
Pacific Coast Feather
Pacific Northwest Advisors
Payless ShoeSource
PepsiCo
Perry Ellis International
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers
of America
Praxair, Inc.
Principal Financial Group
The Procter & Gamble Company
Produce Marketing Association
QUALCOMM Inc.
Red Pagoda Concepts LLC
Reebok International Ltd
REI
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Robert A. Kapp & Associates
The Rockport Company
Rohm and Haas Company
SAP Americas
Securities Industry and Financial Markets
Association
Sequel Technologies
Skyway Luggage
Stonebridge International
Sun Life Financial
Target
Ann Taylor Stores Corporation
TaylorMade
Travel Goods Association
Tyco Electronics
U.S. Association of Importers of Textiles and
Apparel
United States Council for International
Business
United Technologies Corporation

UPS
US Chamber of Commerce
US-China Business Council
Visa International
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Wandell Industries, Inc.
Washington Council on International Trade
Washington State China Relations Council
Washington State Potato Commission
The Westin Building
Westinghouse Electric Company
Whirlpool Corporation
World Shipping Council
Zyvex Corporation