

2009 USCIB Policy Advocacy Priorities

USCIB works with U.S. policymakers, the overseas business community, foreign governments, and international organizations and institutions to achieve sustainable economic growth and job creation, with open markets for U.S. goods, services and investment. Its unique institutional networks around the world facilitate this global outreach.

The international business policy agenda will be dominated by the financial crisis – and the accompanying downturn in the real economy – as well as by engagement with the new Obama administration and Congress. USCIB’s policy priorities seek to advance business views in this context, while reflecting our longstanding support for open markets, sustainable development, competitiveness and innovation, and responsible business conduct.

Prudent Regulation and Effective Enforcement

- Advocate sound transparent market-based regulation supporting the growth of such sectors as telecommunications, e-commerce, biotechnology, and healthcare.
- Advocate a science- and risk- based approach to regulation of emerging technologies, e.g. nanotechnology.
- Press for global competition policies favoring open markets.
- Support enhanced regulation in the financial services sector that promotes greater transparency while avoiding counterproductive overregulation.
- Lead efforts to balance regulatory and market-based approaches to corporate governance.
- Promote self-regulation in marketing and advertising.

Climate Policies Supporting Energy Security, Innovation and Economic Growth

- Lead business engagement in international negotiations to promote market-based and cost-effective solutions to climate challenges, including on mitigation and adaptation.
- Advocate energy policies that ensure diversity of supply and are responsive to long-term requirements for investment in both developed and developing countries.
- Engage with the U.S. government and international organizations in discussions on the intersection of trade and environmental measures, in particular those relating to emissions policies and technology deployment in the context of climate negotiations.
- Engage with U.N. bodies on the “Green Jobs” and “Green New Deal” Initiatives

Expanded Trade and Investment

- Engage on issues raised by the U.S.-China trade and investment relationship.
- Push for completion of the WTO Doha Round with ambitious and balanced results.
- Develop post-Doha initiatives, including liberalization of services, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and expansion of export credit and guarantees.
- Counter investment protectionism both in the U.S. and abroad.
- Promote efforts to counter bribery and corruption, including implementation of the U.N and OECD Anti-Bribery Conventions, and promotion of business-led initiatives.
- Lead business engagement in discussions on trade, labor and environment linkages.
- Promote international trade facilitation, and efficient global supply chains.
- Work with other organizations for renewal of trade negotiating authority and passage of pending Free Trade Agreements.
- Work to ensure safe and secure food supplies through reducing barriers to trade in agriculture and food products.

Economically Sound Taxation Policies

- Ensure that policies related to the taxation of multinational corporations enhance U.S. competitiveness and serve the long term interests of the U.S. economy.
- Ensure the integration of U.S. business input, in both process and substance, into OECD taxation projects, including those on transfer pricing, permanent establishment, business restructuring, collective investment vehicles, consumption taxes on services, tax intermediaries, and dispute resolution.
- Serve as the voice of U.S. business on matters related to the Model Tax Convention and efforts to eliminate double taxation on cross border transactions.

Sustainable and Economically Sound Environmental and Product Policies

- Promote risk and science-based outcomes in life-cycle management of chemicals.
- Use international channels to advocate business views on a sustainable approach to natural resource management, including on water and biodiversity.
- Advocate sustainable production and consumption policies based on promoting innovation, safety, and consumer choice.
- Encourage greater mutual recognition and flexibility in product-based environmental and health regulations.

Job Creation and Competitiveness Through Flexible Labor Markets

- Educate and assist U.S. companies in dealing with emerging international industrial relations developments, including global unions and international framework agreements.
- Promote business interests in the ILO and increase ILO focus on improving the capacity of national labor programs, including through the ILO Better Work Program.
- Support business alliances with the ILO to address forced and child labor.
- Promote OECD work to support flexible labor markets and pro-growth labor policies.

Strong Intellectual Property Protection to Foster Innovation

- Champion robust protection of all forms of intellectual property through engagement in international organizations and treaty negotiations.
- Provide business perspectives and support to combat counterfeiting and piracy.
- Engage with the U.S. government on the Anticounterfeiting Free Trade Agreement (ACTA) negotiations, and on the G-8 work program on intellectual property protection.
- Educate policymakers on the crucial links between intellectual property protection, innovation and development.

Growth in Information and Communications Technologies and a Stable Secure Internet

- Promote an enabling and competitive climate for evolving services resulting from technology, infrastructure, and business model convergence.
- Encourage multi-stakeholder capacity building on Internet issues to promote the continued growth of Information and Communications Technologies and extend their benefits around the world.
- Enhance trust and promote privacy while enabling global flows of personal information.
- Support private-sector led management of the Domain Name System and ICANN's transition to a transparent, accountable, and independent organization..

Corporate Responsibility

- Promote voluntary approaches to corporate responsibility in international policy discussions.
- Engage in U.N. processes to develop guiding principles on business and human rights.
- Support supply chain management programs by promoting inter-governmental efforts to improve implementation and enforcement of national laws.
- Promote public-private partnerships to address pressing development challenges.