



UNITED STATES COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Peter M. Robinson
President & CEO

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the negotiations for a post-2012 U.N. framework on climate change reach a decisive moment in Copenhagen, we are optimistic that progress can be made. Although it has been a long and frequently challenging process, as close observers of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) over many years, the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) believes that your administration's leadership over the past year has made a difference. The innovative and collaborative approaches of the United States have been instrumental to the progress made since Bali. We appreciate your support for an integrated approach to energy security and climate challenges. Pursuing this mutually reinforcing vision will require enhanced technological innovation and stepping up private sector investment and finance in adaptation and mitigation, and we believe these are at the heart of successful post-2012 cooperation at the international level.

We wish to underscore key areas in which the U.S. contributions over the last year have been extremely valuable, and that are still vital from USCIB's viewpoint for Copenhagen and beyond:

An inclusive agreement with action by all major emitters: Long-term climate goals simply cannot be achieved without action by all major emitters. As tensions in the process show, achieving broader participation will not be easy, but this step must be taken now. We know that calls for border and trade adjustment will not further this goal. Indeed, related goals to strengthen technology development and deployment will only be slowed if the world embarks on steps that limit trade and investment. As a leading supporter of free trade, USCIB affirms that an inclusive agreement which comprises obligations on major emitting parties is the best way to avoid harmful trade restrictions.

Support for intellectual property rights (IPR) as indispensable for technological innovation and deployment: The existing international IPR regime provides a sound balancing of incentives for private parties to innovate, and includes appropriate escape values for emergencies. Open trade works in concert with IPR to enable broad dissemination of cleaner technologies and know-how. We do not believe that any adjustment of the IPR system is necessary or appropriate in the UNFCCC setting.

1212 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-1689
212.703.5046 tel
212.575.0327 fax
www.uscib.org

Global Business Leadership as the U.S. Affiliate of:
International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
International Organization of Employers (IOE)
Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) to the OECD
ATA Carnet System

Robust and ambitious national strategies: In business, day-to-day operations are primarily conducted under national, state and local legislation and regulations. We believe that a post-2012 framework founded on and recognizing clearly enunciated national strategies to address climate change, taking account of national priorities and circumstances, will lead to more effective and sustainable policies that businesses can incorporate into planning and investment. Requiring countries to develop and provide robust monitoring, reporting and verification of the progress of their strategies is key to business, the public and all stakeholders.

Finance is a critical element of the negotiations. Whether the issue is adaptation or technology transfer, finance is essential to the solution. From a business perspective, the available funding mechanisms relevant to climate change have been slow, narrow in scope and difficult to access. In this connection, we plan to offer concrete suggestions to Secretary Geithner on how public funding options could be shaped to increase their effectiveness, and to leverage and synergize with private finance.

USCIB seeks an ambitious and practical outcome in Copenhagen and beyond. In this regard, we feel that it is important to take the time to get that outcome right, in light of both urgent issues today and the long-term nature of both the challenges and the duration of the frameworks once concluded. The pressure to close a deal in Copenhagen should not lead to premature, ultimately unworkable decisions that may cause us to forego the opportunity we have to build on the principles and progress achieved to date.

We believe that the post-Copenhagen negotiations and process should engage business as much as possible, and far more than in the past. Going forward, USCIB hopes to see the creation of more effective ways for the UNFCCC to benefit from the United States business expertise and actions through opportunities to collaboratively define mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and effective policies to promote them.

USCIB promotes open markets, competitiveness and innovation, sustainable development and corporate responsibility, supported by international engagement and prudent regulation. Its members include top U.S.-based global companies and professional services firms from every sector of our economy, with operations in every region of the world. With a unique global network encompassing leading international business organizations (USCIB is the American affiliate of the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Organization of Employers and the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD), USCIB provides business views to policy makers and regulatory authorities worldwide, and works to facilitate international trade and investment.

We look forward to working with the administration to attain a post-2012 climate change agreement which provides United States companies with a clear and predictable framework to contribute solutions, especially by stimulating research, innovation, investment and deployment of existing and advanced technology on the necessary scale, in the context of a return to economic growth, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and capacity building and adaptation.

Respectfully,



Peter M. Robinson