



UNITED STATES COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Peter M. Robinson
President & CEO

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Ambassador Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman,

On behalf of USCIB members and as the U.S. national affiliate of ICC, I would like to express our deep concern regarding recent developments that endanger the ratification of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. The TFA represents years of hard work and careful negotiation, as well as the promise of economic growth, increased transparency in trade relations and regulatory coherence. We are disappointed to see that its implementation is under threat days before the first deadline, and would like to offer our support to prevent the deceleration of progress or the disintegration of the agreement.

ICC, which played a vital role in facilitating consensus on the agreement in Bali in December, has been especially active recently in pushing for WTO trade ministers to support implementation of TFA in a timely manner, through press releases, social media campaigns, talking points, infographics and letters to government leaders. USCIB has played an important role supporting these efforts and supplementing them with our own.

USCIB has been an active supporter of the negotiation of TFA and its follow-up since adoption in December. We were present in Bali last winter to offer advice and encouragement as the agreement was negotiated and completed, and since Bali, have worked with USTR and USAID to organize an alliance between the private and public sectors to coordinate and streamline implementation. Most recently, we and our other trade association counterparts sent a letter to G20 leaders and to the WTO reminding them why this week's deadline is so important. We will continue to support your efforts in any way we can in the coming days and afterwards.

We urge you and your staff to undertake every effort possible to make sure that Thursday's deadline is met. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation is vital for extending economic wellbeing to developing and least-developed countries, and is critical to maintaining the credibility of and momentum in the multilateral trading system at the WTO. Again, we stand ready to support USTR in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Robinson

cc: Harold McGraw III, Chairman, International Chamber of Commerce
Chairman, United States Council for International Business

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