

September 16, 2013

Dear Senator:

As organizations committed to promoting open investment policy at home and abroad, we write in support of S. 1023, the “Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013,” bipartisan and bicameral legislation to enhance our nation’s efforts to attract global business investment. We respectfully ask you to consider signing on as a cosponsor.

Introduced by Senators Bob Corker (R-TN), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Roy Blunt (R-MO), and Kay Hagan (D-NC), the “Global Investment in American Jobs Act” aims at improving America’s ability to attract job-creating foreign direct investment (FDI) from businesses around the world. Companion legislation, H.R. 2052, introduced by Representatives Lee Terry (R-NE), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Peter Roskam (R-IL) and John Barrow (D-GA) passed the House with a strong bipartisan vote of 379-32 on September 9, 2013. With your support, we hope the Senate will take similar action on S.1023 this year.

International investment in the United States has long served as an engine for economic growth, fueling U.S. manufacturing, innovation, trade, and overall job creation. U.S. subsidiaries of foreign-headquartered companies account for 5.8 percent of U.S. private sector GDP and employ 5.6 million American workers, including two million in the manufacturing sector. In addition, these companies produce 18 percent of all U.S. exports, fund 14 percent of annual research and development activities, and support a diverse supplier network throughout the country, purchasing goods and services worth hundreds of billions of dollars every year from thousands of small and medium-sized American companies.

While the United States remains the world’s leading recipient of FDI, our global share of such investment has dropped significantly since the turn of the 21st century, from 41 percent in 1999 to just over 17 percent in 2011. Now more than ever before, foreign-headquartered companies have an unprecedented array of options when looking to invest, expand, or establish new operations, including into emerging economies such as China and Brazil. In this challenging global environment, the United States must take action to better position itself to compete for job-creating FDI.

The “Global Investment in American Jobs Act” recognizes that remaining competitive in attracting FDI is directly linked to our nation’s long-term economic strength and security. It directs the Secretary of Commerce to lead the first-ever comprehensive interagency review of U.S. competitiveness for FDI. The review would examine global economic trends, local and international best practices, and U.S. policies which could act as a barrier to FDI. The Secretary would report the findings of the review as well as a series of recommendations to Congress outlining a new roadmap for attracting and retaining top tier businesses from around the world. Importantly, this legislation also underscores that robust efforts to promote inbound investment will not only spur foreign-headquartered companies to create jobs here in the United States but also encourage other nations to welcome investment from American companies seeking to access foreign markets.

The United States cannot afford to become complacent in the effort to attract global business investment. Enacting this legislation will be an important step in enhancing U.S. competitiveness and reinvigorating job growth here at home.

We ask that you consider showing your support for the millions of American workers across all 50 states that depend on investment from global companies and the millions of jobs that could be created by increasing the U.S. share of global FDI.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Advanced Medical Technology Association
Association of Global Automakers, Inc.
Emergency Committee for American Trade
Financial Services Forum
Financial Services Roundtable
National Association of Manufacturers
National Foreign Trade Council
Organization for International Investment
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Council for International Business