



USCIB 2015 Policy Advocacy Priorities

USCIB advocates for international legislative and regulatory regimes that affirm the essential role of business in building a prosperous and sustainable global economy. As the main business interface with international institutions, USCIB ensures that U.S. business has a seat at the table to inform international policy development. Here are USCIB's policy priorities for 2015.

I. Growth, Jobs and Open Markets

U.S. prosperity and job creation are tied to economic growth and new opportunities overseas. U.S. and international policy makers need to understand how business operates and to recognize the private sector's positive role in economic development and job creation. For that to happen, we need:

An ambitious U.S. trade agenda

- A high-standard Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement approved by Congress this year
- A comprehensive Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement concluded by 2016
- A commercially significant Environmental Goods Agreement that drives innovation through value chains
- Bipartisan Congressional approval of a well-designed Trade Promotion Authority bill in 2015
- Implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement and completion of the Trade in International Services Agreement as well as expansion of the Information Technology Agreement
- Inclusion of strong State-Owned Enterprise disciplines in key U.S. trade and investment agreements

Policies that promote and protect cross-border investment

- Elimination of policies requiring forced localization and restricting cross-border data flows
- A high-standard investment chapter in TPP and TTIP, including investor-state dispute settlement
- Business input to U.S. government on China BIT negotiations and future BIT candidates including India

Business leadership on economic growth, job creation and sustainable development

- At key IGOs, U.S. government, APEC and with G20 labor ministers for flexible labor markets, women's economic empowerment, pro-growth labor policies and youth employment
- At the UN for input on the UN's post-2015 sustainable development goals agenda
- At APEC in areas of special USCIB expertise (e.g., chemicals, customs, privacy, health)

II. Competitiveness and Innovation

The private sector is the primary engine of innovation. Policy makers need to understand that business requires access to key markets and industries and highly integrated global production networks to beat back threats to U.S. competitiveness and advance solutions to society's challenges. For that to happen, we need:

Tax policies that promote U.S. competitiveness

- Fair and industry-neutral tax treatment for multinational companies
- Fair treatment for business in OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting tax projects including: transfer pricing; intangibles and documentation; hybrid instruments and entities and permanent establishment

Policies that foster new information and communications technologies

- Multi-stakeholder model for Internet governance to ensure a safe, secure, open, interoperable, resilient, and sustainable Internet and policies promoting investment, competition and innovation throughout the digital ecosystem

- A seamless transition of the Internet Domain Name System stewardship functions and development of strong accountability mechanisms for ICANN to maintain Internet stability
- Risk-management based models for cybersecurity in the OECD and other forums
- Privacy regulations that do not impede cross-border data flows or hamper innovation

Strong intellectual property rights protection

- Recognition in trade and investment agreements, at the OECD and other institutions as a necessary prerequisite for innovation and foreign direct investment

III. Business and Society

Business faces a wide range of expectations from various stakeholders beyond what is strictly required by national or international legal regimes. Policy makers need to understand the different roles played by governments and business with respect to meeting these social expectations. For that to happen, we need:

Policies that recognize and respect the different roles of governments and business in ensuring respect for the rule of law and human rights

- Maintaining consensus on the state duty to protect human rights and companies' commitment to respect human rights, as outlined in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- Voluntary approaches and public-private partnerships for enhancing corporate responsibility, particularly with regard to CSR/sustainability reporting
- Effective global and national regulatory regimes that combat bribery and corruption

Business views reflected in policies dealing with global labor relations

- At the ILO, the ILO Governing Body and International Labor Conference, principally focused on supporting the ILO's work to improve capacity of national governments to implement and enforce labor laws
- In the ILO-IFC Better Work program and similar multi-stakeholder capacity-building platforms
- In other industry or multi-stakeholder initiatives to improve working conditions in supply chains

IV. Sustainable Development and Resource Use and Management

Successful U.S. companies are indispensable to environmental stewardship and the greening of economic growth through their investments, management systems and practices. Policy makers need to understand the integral role of business in developing solutions to environmental and energy challenges and opportunities. For that to happen, we need:

Cost-effective and cooperative international environmental and energy policies

- Addressing the challenges of climate change through efficiency, mitigation, adaptation and resilience
- Multilateral solutions to trans-boundary environment, energy and climate challenges, and avoidance of unilateral, arbitrary measures that disqualify technology or energy options
- Risk, science and life-cycle based approaches to chemicals life-cycle management in APEC and the UN
- Voluntary labeling and access to environmental information that protects confidential business information and provides credible information for consumer choices

Pro-growth, market oriented policies that promote sustainable development

- Opposition to decisions attributing liability for loss and damage to U.S. companies
- Multilateral and national partnership frameworks to incentivize private sector involvement in sustainable development planning, implementation and risk allocation
- Technology neutral policies and other enabling frameworks to encourage trade and investment in cleaner technologies and energy sources
- Market oriented policies that promote energy access and responsible use of all energy options
- Multi-stakeholder approach to promoting the health and well being of people and work forces as essential to global economic success