

# USCIB 2017 Policy Advocacy Priorities

## Growth, Jobs and Open Markets

*U.S. prosperity and job creation require investment and trade rules that open international markets to American companies and are effectively enforced. That's why we need:*

### ***A U.S. trade agenda that benefits all Americans***

- Support strong enforcement of trade and investment rules and agreements
- Work with the incoming Administration to open markets to U.S. goods and services, establish high-standard global rules for trade and investment, and update existing trade agreements
- Urge the new Administration to complete a significant Environmental Goods Agreement
- Secure robust implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Support effective implementation of key provisions included in the Customs Reauthorization Act
- Play a lead role in outreach to educate and build support for trade and investment policies that deliver the widest benefit to the most people in the U.S.

### ***Policies that promote and protect cross-border investment***

- Eliminate policies requiring forced localization and restricting cross-border data flows
- Ensure high-standard investment chapters, including strong investor-state dispute settlement, in U.S. agreements
- Advocate forcefully for pro-investment policies in the U.S. and internationally, including strong enforcement provisions
- Work with the U.S. government to get a strong U.S.-China Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)

### ***Business leadership on greener economic growth, job creation and enhanced U.S. competitiveness***

- Press key IGOs, U.S. government, APEC, OECD and G20 labor ministers for flexible labor markets, women's economic empowerment, pro-growth labor policies and youth employment
- Promote policies needed to build a workforce ready to compete and succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy
- Ensure international institutions are transparent and accountable to key stakeholders
- Continue business leadership in UN implementation of the 2030 development agenda and SDGs
- Advocate at APEC in areas of special USCIB expertise (e.g., chemicals, customs, privacy, health)

## Competitiveness and Innovation

*As the primary source of innovation and the technologies that will help address society's most pressing challenges, the private sector needs access to key markets, resources and talent. That's why we need:*

### ***Tax policies that promote U.S. competitiveness***

- Protect and encourage cross-border trade and investment with predictable fiscal environments
- Ensure implementation of the outcomes of OECD's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting project that minimize double taxation and promote resolution of disputes
- Engage on U.S. tax reform that will enhance competitiveness

### ***Policies that foster new information and communications technologies***

- Seek "light touch" regulation aligned with marketplace realities, interoperable regulatory requirements, and respect for rule of law

- Maintain internet stability through sound management of the Internet Domain Name System stewardship functions and holding ICANN accountable to the global stakeholder community
- Promote risk-management based models for cybersecurity in global forums
- Ensure that privacy regulations do not impede cross-border data flows or hamper innovation
- Engage with international organizations developing rules for digital trade to ensure interests of USCIB members are addressed, including IP protection

## **Business in Society**

*Companies increasingly seek to address their impact on the societies where they operate, and need recognition and support from policy makers to continue to improve performance. That's why we need:*

### ***Policies recognizing the different roles of governments and business in ensuring respect for the rule of law and human rights***

- Maintain 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
- Support voluntary approaches and public-private partnerships for enhancing corporate responsibility, particularly with regard to CSR/sustainability reporting
- Ensure effective and targeted global and national regulatory regimes that combat bribery and corruption and human trafficking by incentivizing all actors to behave responsibly

### ***Business input on policies dealing with global labor relations and healthcare challenges***

- Focus on supporting the ILO's work to improve capacity of national governments to implement and enforce labor laws
- Support multi-stakeholder initiatives to improve working conditions in supply chains to ensure that they work towards long-term effectiveness by demanding equal effort from all stakeholders
- Support consumer information and education initiatives, responsible marketing and advertising, product reformulation, and promotion of healthy lifestyles

## **Sustainable Development and Sound Science**

*Economic growth and energy security for the U.S. depends on international regulations and markets that promote a strong private-sector role in wise management and use of resources, effective environmental stewardship and greener growth. That's why we need:*

### ***Cost-effective, science and risk-based cooperative environmental and energy policies***

- Address the challenges of climate change while protecting energy security, promoting innovation and efficiency and advancing resilience to climate impacts
- Provide multilateral solutions to trans-boundary environment, energy and climate challenges, and reject unilateral, arbitrary measures that disqualify technology or energy options
- Ensure science and risk-based life-cycle approaches to chemicals management in the APEC, the OECD, UNEP and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
- Support 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***

- Develop multilateral and national partnership frameworks to incentivize private sector involvement in sustainable development planning, implementation and risk allocation minimization
- Maintain technology neutral policies and other enabling frameworks to encourage trade and investment in cleaner technologies and energy sources