The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

With the start of the new year, the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) is committed to continuing to work with you and your administration to advance policies that will grow the U.S. economy and jobs by improving the global competitiveness of U.S. businesses in 2018, a prerequisite for American jobs and prosperity. As the voice of hundreds of leading U.S. manufacturers and service providers that operate around the world, we appreciate your leadership in creating a more business-friendly regulatory environment and tax system in our country that will facilitate increased U.S. investment and growth, job creation, and U.S. business competitiveness globally. We also welcome your focus on accountability and effectiveness of leading multilateral institutions to advance U.S. economic interests.

We write you today to urge you to include the following key messages in your State of the Union speech that will promote awareness here and abroad regarding your agenda for U.S. economic growth and competitiveness. It is essential for our citizens and world markets to hear and understand that the U.S. will be engaged and committed to growing the U.S. and global economies by:

- **Increasing U.S. trade in goods and services by opening markets.** The U.S. will lead by modernizing, strengthening and enforcing a rules-based trade and investment system to open markets, reduce barriers and eliminate unfair trade practices. Along with modernizing NAFTA and KORUS with key partners and allies, we urge you to commit to initiating new negotiations that will lead to more trade with Asia, Europe and Latin America. Recognizing that disparity among nations has impeded global multilateral agreements, we urge you to announce your intent to pursue plurilateral and sectoral agreements that comply with WTO rules with coalitions of like-minded countries, such as e-commerce. These agreements should be open for other countries to join when they can live by the terms.

- **Continuing to reduce regulatory barriers here and abroad.** We welcome your successful campaign to reduce regulatory barriers for SMEs and large, multinational companies that will lead to more cost-effective and efficient production of goods and services for U.S. and overseas consumers. We must eliminate duplicative, burdensome regulatory policies here and abroad as part of establishing a coherent and cost-effective international regulatory framework. A global system that promotes smart regulation – that doesn’t vary by country – will lead to increased exports, global supply chains and secure business investments and economic growth.
• **Promoting education and skills development for the jobs of the future.** U.S. companies seeking to compete globally must adapt to new technologies and rapidly changing business models. We need workers who are also able to adapt to the changing business realities. We seek your commitment to working with the private sector in creating a new framework for lifelong education to prepare our citizens with the necessary skills to compete, succeed and prosper in the 21st century economy across many sectors. Such a system must promote “best-in-the-world” education and workforce training that values technical skills development along with critical thinking.

• **Facilitating innovation.** Future economic growth for U.S. businesses and workers depends upon our ability to innovate and widely deploy that innovation for the benefit of the U.S. economy. The dramatic growth of trade in digital goods and services is just one example of the increasing importance of innovation to the continued success of U.S. companies, especially of SMEs. We urge you to commit to promoting government policies that enhance rather than stifle innovation and allow for adoption of breakthrough technologies, products, energy sources, and services. This should include policies that promote cross border data flows, advance markets for U.S. energy options, intellectual property protection and improved science and math education.

• **Increasing international leadership where it matters.** Mr. President, you have demonstrated to the world that the United States is a friend of democracy, economic growth and opportunity, and will assert its leadership when necessary to protect America. Our U.S. competitiveness agenda requires the U.S. government to be at the table holding international organizations accountable and driving and shaping the policies developed in these institutions. There is a growing risk that international organizations will pursue policies that discriminate against U.S. business, especially if our government is not actively engaging in the development of those policies. Inclusive and transparent involvement of U.S. business and government is needed to advance and defend U.S. economic interests.

In your upcoming State of the Union address you have the chance to press forward in 2018 with an agenda for international engagement that will build on the recent tax reform to drive economic growth by improving U.S. competitiveness. We stand ready to work with you and your Administration in advancing and amplifying this agenda.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Robinson