



GLOBAL TRADE & FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Trade Policy Recommendations

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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce believes in “**A Thriving Region for All**” and a “**Balanced Approach**” to decision-making and that “**Business is a Force for Good**”.

We design and advance opportunities and solutions for a thriving regional economy that is balanced, inclusive, and globally competitive.

The Greater Los Angeles region, including the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura, is one of the most vibrant economies in the world. The region’s ports, airports, world-class education institutions, diversified economy and industrial base continue to be a powerful magnet for international business transactions and investors.

The region is widely recognized as the premier trade hub between the United States and global markets, as it generates over \$400 billion in yearly exports and imports. In terms of trade impact, the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports also provide 883,000 jobs in the region and comprise 75% of the West Coast’s entire market share of shipped imports.

THE L.A. AREA CHAMBER ADVOCATES AND ADVANCES TRADE LAWS AND CUSTOMS PRACTICES TO PROMOTE EXPORTS FROM THE REGION:

Renewing Trade Laws

In December 2020 two US trade laws expired. Their expiration has hampered international trade efforts with the U.S., which has a direct impact on our regional economy. The L.A. Area Chamber is advocating for the legislation to be renewed and these trade agreements to be expanded. These trade laws include:

- **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP):** The GSP is a preferential trade program which allows eligible developing countries, including key trading partners of the U.S., to export certain goods duty-free or at reduced tariffs.
- **Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB):** The MTB provides temporary duty suspensions or reductions for thousands of products imported into the U.S. Economic harm caused to businesses because of the expiration of this temporary duty relief is similar to that of GSP.

Building a 21st Century Framework for Customs

With the evolution of global trade being driven by technology, expanding markets, and e-commerce, it is vital for the global market to similarly transform its approach to customs. The L.A. Area Chamber strives to safeguard American workers and businesses, ensure fair competition, enhance supply chain transparency, and facilitate secure movement of goods across the U.S. border. The framework includes:

- **Enhancing Supply Chain Transparency:** Strengthening oversight to identify rule violators while enabling smooth border crossings for legitimate goods.
- **Data-driven Decisions:** By increasing information sharing, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) can make well-informed admissibility judgments before goods arrive, ensuring security and trade efficiency.
- **Allocating Risk Effectively:** Through revamped processes, CBP can pinpoint supply chain risks and assign responsibility to suitable parties, including new actors.



- **Support Measures** for this framework include fostering collaboration among government agencies, adopting advanced data analytics tools, streamlining regulatory procedures, and investing in technology to bolster information-sharing and decision-making capabilities.

Investing in Trade Facilitation and Logistics Infrastructure

The L.A. Area Chamber advocates for legislative investments in trade facilitation as well as domestic and international logistics infrastructure that serve the L.A. region. These issues often involve:

- Upgrading and expanding airports and ports.
- Improving road and rail system infrastructure.
- Developing high-speed digital connectivity.

Market Access and Trade Promotion

The vitality of the L.A. regional economy depends upon policies which support market access and promote international trade while assisting our regional ports in maintaining their competitiveness across the globe. The L.A. Area Chamber advocates for:

- Removal of unreasonable trade barriers.
- Development of trade missions and exhibitions to promote L.A. to key international target markets.
- Collaboration with trade promotion agencies.

GLOBAL TRADE AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROGRAMS:

GLOBAL INITIATIVES COUNCIL

The Global Initiatives Council works to develop programs and events to promote global trade and investment to create regional employment.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL EXPORT COUNCIL (LAREXC)

The Los Angeles Regional Export Council facilitates collaboration and coordination among the greater Los Angeles and five-county region's international trade institutions, government agencies, economic development offices, and service providers to sustain broad-based and inclusive economic growth and job creation in the region by promoting the growth of exports by local firms — particularly small and medium-sized firms — and to strengthen, support and expand existing services and programs that are responsive to regional exporter needs.

DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL OFFICERS GROUP

The Diplomatic & Commercial Officers Group provides the infrastructure and venue where members of the consular corps and trade offices can develop their trade strategies and programs as they perform their professional responsibilities. To date, more than thirty countries are represented in the initiative.