

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508



April 1, 2012

Dear Members and Friends of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce,

Congratulations on your 86th year celebrating World Trade Week. This important initiative highlights the job-building benefits of international trade and investment for Los Angeles area companies, entrepreneurs, and workers.

Selling more of what we make, grow, and provide from right here in the United States is part of President Obama's blueprint to build an economy that lasts with better jobs for more Americans. As I saw first-hand during my visit last year, Angelinos both benefit from and contribute to America's exporting strength. With some of the busiest ports in the country and a dynamic regional economy, your metropolitan area is well-positioned to continue creating economic growth and jobs in the 21st century, and the Obama Administration is committed to helping you succeed.

The U.S.-Korea trade agreement is an integral part of President Obama's efforts to grow American jobs by doubling American exports. Last year, California exported \$8.4 billion worth of goods to Korea, more than any other state in the country. The Los Angeles area will be seeing even more trade and exports as a result of the U.S.-Korea trade agreement taking effect on March 15, 2012. Both the U.S.-Colombia trade agreement and U.S.-Panama trade agreement will also boost U.S. exports and support additional American jobs. That's why the Administration is working intensively with the governments of Colombia and Panama to ensure their respective obligations are met and to bring those agreements into force as soon as possible.

As a gateway to the Asia-Pacific region, the greater Los Angeles area also stands to benefit significantly from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) regional trade agreement that the United States is currently negotiating with eight like-minded countries – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam. The TPP will foster additional job-supporting export opportunities for U.S. producers, and it will address new cross-cutting issues such as promoting regulatory coherence among the countries; enhancing the participation of small businesses in Asia-Pacific trade; and building regional supply chains that promote U.S. jobs.

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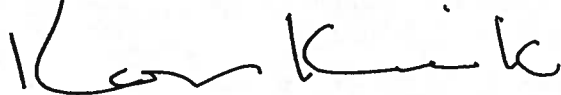
Los Angeles area businesses and workers also benefit from the Obama Administration's unprecedented efforts to enforce U.S. trade rights and hold our trading partners accountable. For example, the Obama Administration has brought cases against China's unfair trade practices at nearly twice the rate of the previous administration. Furthermore, President Obama created an Interagency Trade Enforcement Center (ITEC) to significantly enhance the Administration's capabilities to aggressively challenge unfair trade practices around the world, including in China.

President Obama noted in his State of the Union address that "it's not right when another country lets our movies, music, and software be pirated." Consequently, protecting and enforcing intellectual property (IP) rights remains a key trade priority for the Administration.

These are just some of the many ways the Obama Administration is helping to open markets and secure a level playing field for U.S. exporters. At the same time, we are working to make trade policy more responsive and accessible to all Americans with cutting-edge online tools, such as www.businessusa.gov, an online one-stop shop where businesses can go for information and assistance with exporting. To learn more, please also visit www.ustr.gov and www.export.gov.

In conclusion, thank you all for sustaining the tradition and vision of World Trade Week. I look forward to working with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce as we continue to open markets, enforce U.S. trade rights, and support American jobs through trade.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Kirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ron" and last name "Kirk" clearly distinguishable.

United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk