



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Since 1935, the President of the United States has declared the third week in May to be "World Trade Week." World Trade Week has provided us with an opportunity to celebrate the importance of international trade to our continued economic prosperity and future commercial prospects. International trade benefits the United States and all nations throughout the world.

International trade continues to be the keystone to our continued economic recovery. In March, we celebrated the two-year anniversary of President Obama's signing of the Executive Order creating the National Export Initiative (NEI), to achieve the goal of doubling U.S. exports by the end of 2014. Between 2009 and 2011, U.S. jobs supported by exports increased by 1.2 million. Building on strong growth in 2010, exports supported approximately 9.7 million jobs in 2011, and the value of U.S. exports of goods and services exceeded \$2.1 trillion for the first time in U.S. history.

In an effort to further expand markets for U.S. businesses, President Obama signed into law legislation implementing the U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement (KORUS), which entered into force on March 15, 2012. KORUS is expected to increase U.S. exports by approximately \$11 billion and support tens of thousands of U.S. jobs. This past year, the President also signed into law legislation implementing trade agreements with Colombia and Panama, which when implemented are expected to increase U.S. exports to those countries and support even more U.S. jobs.

I congratulate the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the hundreds of local and state organizations that partner with the Department of Commerce and other U.S. Government agencies on raising awareness and educating businesses on the importance and benefits of global trade.

As we celebrate World Trade Week, we must recognize that government can only set the stage for increased trade. American companies must seize the opportunities to bring the best and most competitive products to the world marketplace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Bryson".

John E. Bryson