



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

For 90 years, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce has led our nation in commemorating World Trade Week and celebrating the benefits that global trade brings to our local communities. This year, we have an opportunity to not only recognize those benefits – more well-paying jobs, higher growth, and a stronger middle class – but expand them for all Americans by leading on trade.

American workers, entrepreneurs, and businesses of all sizes provide the foundation for our nation's strong export performance, and the people of California deserve special recognition for their contribution to our country's economic success. In 2014, California led the nation by exporting \$173.8 billion Made-in-America goods, which supported over 775,000 jobs. Los Angeles, home to our country's top port complex and third largest export market, was responsible for more than 45 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. We continue to work to expand markets for our country's high-quality goods, services, and creative product exports, because as California's example shows, rising exports drive economic opportunity here at home.

To expand these benefits, we worked hard to make the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) the highest-standard trade agreement in history. TPP marks a major opportunity for our workers and businesses, opening some of the world's largest and fastest growing markets to Made-in-America exports, while supporting high-paying jobs, strengthening the American middle class, and setting the rules of the road for the global economy.

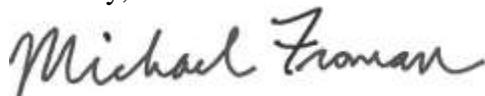
TPP will benefit businesses from San Diego to San Francisco and beyond. By cutting more than 18,000 foreign taxes and raising standards in other markets, by 2030 we will see an estimated \$350 billion per year increase in Made-in-America exports, according to the Peterson Institute. That means more high-paying jobs for strong export markets like Los Angeles. TPP also sets strong and enforceable labor and environmental standards, ensures a free and open Internet, includes strong commitments to protect intellectual property rights, establishes new disciplines on state-owned enterprises, and helps small and medium-sized businesses compete and succeed in the global economy. For example, Mark W. Fuller, CEO of Los Angeles-based small business WET has said "we strongly support the Trans-Pacific Partnership because it will give WET and other small businesses like ours unprecedented access to vital economies in the Asia-Pacific

region by reducing the import taxes that burden our work when facing foreign competition. It also takes new, strong steps to protect our intellectual property, our most valuable asset abroad.”

With these benefits within our reach, the time to pass the TPP is now. According to the Peterson Institute, even a one year delay would cost each American household over \$700, on average. The future of California’s competitiveness is on the line, from high-tech innovators in Silicon Valley, to farmers and ranchers in the Central Valley, to intellectual property creators in Hollywood, to small business manufacturers like WET.

Given these stakes, the spirit behind World Trade Week is needed today more than ever. As we write the next chapter of this proud, 90-year tradition, we thank organizations like the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce for inspiring and enabling America’s leadership on trade. With your support, we can make 2016 a year to remember.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Froman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ambassador Michael Froman  
United States Trade Representative