



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

March 23, 2016

Commissioner Anthony Pirozzi
Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners
2016 World Trade Week Chair
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
350 South Bixel Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Commissioner Pirozzi:

As we reflect on nearly a century of celebrating World Trade Week, we can point to the contributions of exporters, export service providers, and organizations like the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (LAACC) as instruments of global trade success.

The Department of Commerce's long association with the LAACC is a source of great pride for us, and we look forward to many more years of collaborative work with your organization. Enclosed, please find my message applauding the Chamber's work in promoting international trade.

Sincerely,

Penny Pritzker

Enclosure



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Since 1927, when the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce initiated the first World Trade celebration, this event has evolved into a special opportunity to showcase global success and educate U.S. businesses about the benefits of exporting.

In my travels around the world as Secretary of Commerce, I have seen the triumphs and challenges of U.S. businesses participating in global trade, and I have witnessed first-hand how organizations like the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce make a difference. From my vantage point, the potential for trade to drive U.S. economic prosperity is great; however, many hands must come together to make it happen.

Within the Department of Commerce and its U.S. Commercial Service, we focus on strengthening the competitiveness of U.S. businesses by educating them on exporting, providing them the resources they need, and connecting them to the tremendous worldwide demand for U.S. goods and services. Our trade professionals work with U.S. businesses across the Nation and around the world in markets where U.S. companies pursue opportunities. This is done hand-in-hand with organizations like the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, which innovates, partners with us, and is a valued resource for exporters in the Los Angeles business community.

As we celebrate World Trade Week, we acknowledge the many opportunities on the horizon. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) will introduce more U.S. exporters to the Asia-Pacific region, which boasts a fast-growing middle class of more than 500 million consumers. In 2014, \$71.6 billion in goods exports from California went to TPP countries. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, when concluded, will continue to open markets and benefit companies. These new trade agreements will ensure that American companies can compete on a fair and level playing field. In addition, the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield will help grow the digital economy for European and American businesses and ensure that those businesses can continue to access services online.

A major priority of the Department is increasing the number of companies that take advantage of exporting as a way to grow their business. As we work to open markets, we will continue to offer U.S. businesses information, resources, and connections across the United States and around the world. At overseas trade shows, including Hannover Messe, and events like the U.S. Discover Global Markets Business Forums (and its overseas counterpart TradeWinds), we will continue to work with partners like the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce to educate, share resources, and match U.S. sellers with international buyers for global success.

The United States is a nation of explorers, inventors, and leaders. U.S. businesses are helping to shape international trade, while navigating through the global economic landscape. World Trade Week encourages us all to reflect on our world as a true global economy, with opportunities for success worldwide.

I congratulate the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce on its 90th World Trade Week, and I applaud its commitment to international trade.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Penny Pritzker".

Penny Pritzker
U.S. Secretary of Commerce