

Since its initiation in 1927 by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (LAACC), the World Trade Week celebration continues to highlight the tremendous business opportunities for U.S. companies that choose to go global and offer the trade community a collaborative platform to bring success in the global marketplace.

I am honored to be the new Secretary of Commerce, and I intend to bring what I have learned from the private sector to my job here in Washington, D.C. I am looking forward to having a stronger business relationship with organizations such as the LAACC, and I understand the important role it plays in fostering the entrepreneurial spirit to help drive innovation and increase American competitiveness.

Within the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, we have both U.S. and overseas international trade professionals who will concentrate on strengthening the competitiveness of U.S. businesses by offering up-to-date content on exporting, providing them the resources they need to support exporting, connecting them to the global demand for U.S. goods and services, and ensuring that our trading partners comply with their agreements. Our global business professionals work with U.S. businesses across the country and throughout the world in markets where U.S. companies can pursue real business opportunities. We coordinate our resources and services with organizations such as the LAACC, which innovates, partners with us, and is a valued resource for exporters in the Los Angeles area business community.

As we celebrate this year's World Trade Week, we keep in mind that the United States must be strong and steadfast in leading innovation and remaining on the cutting edge of technology. Automation and e-commerce will help American firms be more competitive in today's dynamic global markets. Our ability as a Nation of entrepreneurs and innovators will hinge on providing a level playing field so that U.S. firms can not only compete, but rely on fair trade rules.

As I go forward as Secretary of Commerce, one of my goals will be to better facilitate access to the Department's resources and avail myself to organizations such as the LAACC to support the private sector's job creation for American workers. Exporting American products and services helps create good jobs here at home, while helping to strengthen our economy.

The United States has many great organizations such as the LAACC and, through these organizations, events such as the 91st Annual World Trade Week Kick Off Breakfast help to generate a continued sense of purpose and direction for U.S. businesses. I congratulate the LAACC on its 91st World Trade Week, and I applaud its commitment to international trade.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wilbur Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wilbur" being more prominent than the last name "Ross".

Wilbur Ross