

October 24, 2011

Ambassador Ron Kirk
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20508
USA

Subject: Buy American Provision

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

On behalf of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) and its membership, I am writing to express concern over the Buy American provision in the American Jobs Act proposed by President Obama in September. While the OCC appreciates the significant economic challenges facing the United States, we are deeply concerned about the unintended consequences of such legislation on future U.S.-Canada trade and jobs on both sides of the border.

Trade between Canada and the United States in 2010 totalled \$650-billion with daily trade across the border recorded at \$1.8 billion. The interconnectedness of our economies means that goods move back and forth across the border multiple times in the production cycle. The Buy American clause will not only affect the \$2.4 billion steel and iron industry in Ontario and its correlating businesses but also American companies doing business with Ontario firms, and of course the more than 8 million U.S. and 2 million Canadian jobs that depend on free bilateral trade.

The exemption Canada obtained following negotiations over a Buy American clause in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 is a clear recognition that trade restrictive measures hurt both of our economies. Given the uncertain economic climate, preserving free and open trade between our two countries must be a priority. The OCC hopes the U.S and Canadian governments can reach an agreement on Buy American that will contribute to a sustainable trade relationship and foster a prosperous economy on both sides of the border.

Yours sincerely,



Len Crispino
President & CEO

cc: The Honourable Edward Fast, Minister of International Trade, Canada

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