



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

April 29, 2010

Ms. Kaylynn Kim
Chair
World Trade Week 2010
350 South Bixel Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Ms. Kim:

Thank you for your letter and for the opportunity to celebrate the 84th anniversary of World Trade Week in May. International trade is crucial to the continuing economic recovery, and the United States is committed to being a strong partner in the global marketplace.

I am pleased to enclose a message to support the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce's efforts to promote the importance of international trade and its benefits to the United States and the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Locke".

Gary Locke

Enclosure

In 1935 President Franklin Roosevelt declared the third week in May “World Trade Week.” Since his declaration, the economy of the United States has expanded by leaps and bounds to an annual gross domestic product of over \$14 trillion. Trade in the global marketplace will create jobs, support American households, and keep the United States economically strong into the future.

International trade remains central to the continuing economic recovery. Exports last year accounted for 11 percent of our gross domestic product, almost three times as much as in the 1950s. There is no question that exports are a significant part of the U.S. economy; however, there is ample room for improvement. Just consider that less than one percent of America’s 30 million companies export. Of those companies that do export, 58 percent sell to only one foreign market. Vast opportunities for American manufacturers, farmers, service providers, and distributors lie beyond our borders. Capitalizing on these opportunities is essential to our long-term economic stability. For this reason, President Obama signed Executive Order 13234, establishing the National Export Initiative.

This new initiative will dramatically raise awareness of export opportunities, broaden the availability of export training and assistance, improve access to credit, step up the Government’s advocacy on behalf of American companies, and help the Government remove barriers to free and fair access to foreign markets.

In addition to increasing exports and export awareness, we must ensure the benefits of trade are realized by all Americans. The Department of Commerce and the International Trade Administration will continue to enforce trade laws, develop strategies to obtain market access abroad, and ensure compliance by other countries. It is our mission not only to help companies export, but also to ensure they have open markets and a level playing field.

I commend the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the hundreds of local and state organizations that partner with the Department of Commerce and other Federal agencies to raise export awareness and improve business prospects for companies throughout the Nation. Increasing U.S. exports is a challenge we all must take on together. As we implement the National Export Initiative in the days, months, and years ahead, I look forward to strengthening our partnerships. Together, we will keep the United States a leader in the global marketplace.

As we celebrate World Trade Week, let us affirm again the importance of global trade and know that with a comprehensive and focused strategy, the U.S. Government is committed to helping America grow through trade.



Gary Locke