

October 10, 2018

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We are writing to underscore the strong interest of the American business community in working closely with the U.S. Department of State to promote America's economic interests around the globe. Our organizations represent the interests of millions of businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, ranging from small, family-owned businesses to leading industry associations and large corporations. We appreciate your leadership in promoting American enterprise overseas.

Foreign Service Officers at U.S. embassies are instrumental in advancing the interests of American companies around the world in ways that foster economic growth and job creation in the U.S. American businesses need their help engaging with foreign governments to level the playing field so that American businesses can compete and win in the global marketplace. U.S. businesses also rely on these personnel to improve government procurement processes, break down non-tariff barriers that shut out U.S. goods and services, and ensure that overseas parties honor contracts.

We urge you to send more diplomats overseas with the mission to advance these important American economic and commercial interests, which ultimately support more American jobs. Foreign competitors are continually extending their economic reach into markets where America's diplomatic presence is limited. The American Foreign Service Association has advocated to shift Foreign Service Officers now in Washington to overseas posts to help U.S. businesses seize more commercial opportunities. We strongly endorse this concept.

We thank you for taking crucial steps to restore America's diplomatic strength. We look forward to working with you to advance U.S. interests by extending the economic and commercial reach of American diplomats overseas.

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy Economy

Airlines for America

Alabama Trucking Association

Alaska Trucking Association

American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Trucking Associations
Arkansas Trucking Association
Association for Unmanned Systems International
Association of Washington Business
Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire
Business Council of Alabama
Business Council of New York State
California Trucking Association
Cargo Airline Association
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Coalition of Services Industries
Colorado Motor Carriers Association
Connecticut Business and Industry Association
Council of the Americas/Americas Society
Express Association of America
Florida Trucking Association
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Motor Trucking Association
Hawaii Trucking Association
Idaho Trucking Association
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois International Business Council
Illinois Trucking Association

Indiana Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Motor Truck Association
International Franchise Association
International Warehouse and Logistics Association
Iowa Motor Carriers Association
Kansas Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Trucking Association
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Motor Transport Association
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Motor Truck Association
Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Trucking Association
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Trucking Association
Mississippi Economic Council
Mississippi Trucking Association
Missouri Chamber of Commerce
Missouri Trucking Association
Motor Carriers Association of Montana
Motor Truck Association of Connecticut
National Association of Manufacturers
National Foreign Trade Council

National Industrial Transportation League

Natural Gas Vehicles for America

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska Trucking Association

Nevada Trucking Association

New Jersey Business and Industry Association

New Jersey Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico Trucking Association

North Carolina Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina Trucking Association

North Dakota Motor Carriers

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Ohio Manufacturers Association

Ohio Trucking Association

Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma Trucking Association

Oregon Business and Industry Association

Oregon Trucking Association

Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals

Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry

Pennsylvania Motor Trucking Association

Rhode Island Trucking Association

Sandy Springs Chamber of Commerce

Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council

Small Business Exporters Association

South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Trucking Association
South Dakota Trucking Association
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce
Texas Trucking Association
The Lexington Institute
Trucking Association of Massachusetts
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United States Council for International Business
Utah Trucking Association
Virginia Trucking Association
Washington Council on International Trade
Washington Trucking Associations
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association
Wyoming Trucking Association