

January xx, 2015

The Honorable Penny Pritzker  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. Pritzker,

As you may know, our Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness (ACSCC) has been working on issues relating to the progress of the International Trade Data System, also known as the Single Window Initiative, and we wanted to make you aware of some of our concerns.

Since we provided our initial recommendation to you on this initiative, we have continued to work closely with your staff at the Commerce Department and key personnel at the Customs and Border Protection, discussing the project status, related technical and strategic issues in developing the system, and updates to our IT & Data subcommittee's research on various development options being used or considered in other Single Windows. We appreciate the opportunity to advise on these issues and have found our interactions valuable.

As the ITDS project enters a new phase, it will require increasingly higher levels of interagency cooperation. We believe the White House will need to intervene more aggressively across the interagency process to ensure that all of the agencies are aligned and cooperating fully with helping the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) successfully complete this system by December 2016. We also believe that the White House needs to take a more assertive role in addressing key differences between the data elements and regulatory differences between and among the agencies.

We raise these concerns because this committee strongly supports CBP's and the Administration's effort to complete work on this system, and greatly appreciates the President's Executive Order to expedite it. We believe implementation of the Single Window system, as quickly as possible, will significantly improve our member companies' ability to export and strengthen our economy.

To help inform companies on the progress made with the development of the Single Window initiative, we would suggest that the White House convene a summit during the first quarter of 2015 (possibly near the anniversary of the published President's Executive Order) to share the progress made, what resources or other institutional challenges are needed to be addressed to make the deadline.

Thank you for your attention to completing the ITDS project by December 2016 and we look forward to continuing to work with you to make our supply chains more competitive.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Rick D. Blasgen  
President and CEO, Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals  
Chair, Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness

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