

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

As Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness (ACSCC), and on behalf of the ACSCC, I would like to congratulate and welcome you to your new role as Secretary of Commerce. We look forward to working with you and the Trump Administration on a pro-growth agenda to improve the competitiveness of U.S. domestic and international supply chains, facilitate new job growth within the United States, and increase U.S. exports.

The economies of the North American countries are deeply intertwined. The trade of goods and services between the United States, Mexico, and Canada has increased by 166 percent since 1990, which outpaces the increase of trade between the United States and the rest of the world. More than one in every seven American jobs is now related to trade with Mexico and Canada.

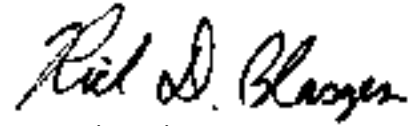
North America has become stronger as a region competing in the global economy by removing barriers to trade and investment within the region, leading to integrated supply chains that are designed to improve the overall performance of the North American industries, consolidating manufacturing and driving down costs. Integrated supply chains have created five million new U.S. jobs through North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)-related exports, with nearly 40 percent of U.S. imports from Mexico originated with American companies.

Our ACSCC members stand ready to help bring this Administration, and in particular the policy makers negotiating the new NAFTA terms, fresh ideas and real time solutions from private supply chain industry operators and users to address competitiveness challenges. We stand ready to provide support, advice, and feedback to agency leaders and negotiators during those deliberations on what works and what can be improved in the new terms without creating unnecessary disruption in integrated North American Supply Chains. This valuable perspective is based on extensive connections with the industries that employ those individuals and a critical understanding on how to ensure the best deal for our country.

As you may know, supply chains and infrastructure enable U.S. business interests to compete globally. Our nation's freight transportation network moves more than 55 million tons of goods worth more than \$49 billion each day. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, this movement of goods accounts for about \$1.408 trillion or 7.85% of GDP. Looking forward, those figures will continue to rise alongside the projected 12% per year growth of e-commerce. This foundation and growth place an ever-higher premium on strong, high-functioning supply chains. The management and operation of those supply chains is a powerful source of job creation, with the current job market experiencing more than 68% more openings than the number of students entering the workforce. Our ACSCC members stand ready to contribute their expertise in domestic and international supply chains to achieve the goals of the Administration.

We thank you for your support of this important advisory body, and request that the Committee be able to meet with senior officials in the Department of Commerce and related agencies who will be taking leadership roles in the renegotiation of NAFTA at their earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick D. Blasgen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Rick D. Blasgen

President and CEO, Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals
Chair, Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness