

May 14, 2009

The Honorable Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

We are writing to urge you to maintain the highest levels of ambition and balance in any outcome of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Agreement. We are very appreciative of the position you have taken in your policy remarks and in your Geneva press conference that the United States is committed to working with our trading partners for such an outcome, but that there remains an imbalance in the current negotiations. A Doha Round that results in trade liberalization and provides new market access for U.S. producers and others around the world is one of the highest trade priorities for the National Association of Manufacturers and many manufacturing associations. A successful agreement will lead to significant market openings in nations around the world, and will generate new trade flows that will benefit American manufacturers and exporters, as well as lead to global economic growth and development.

From our perspective, the path to a successful conclusion to the Doha Round is still possible building on the work done by the Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) Chairs, but it is an uphill and difficult path. The gaps are still huge. While U.S. negotiators have long signaled a willingness to negotiate and to contribute to a significant market-opening result, key players among the rapidly-growing advanced developing countries have not. Too many still hold out for an outcome that would produce virtually no new liberalization. The Doha Round is a reciprocal trade negotiation, not a donor's conference, and their attitude must change if Ministers are to agree on a negotiating framework that can provide genuine liberalization.

We, the undersigned associations, look forward to working with you to ensure that the Round is concluded on an ambitious and balanced basis that truly results in trade liberalization and increased market access for all participants.

Sincerely,

Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI)
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Forest and Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI)
American Lighting Association

Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Association of International Automobile Manufacturers, Inc.
Automotive Trade Policy Council
Consumer Specialty Products Association
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
Glass Association of North America (GANA)
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
International Dairy Foods Association
National Association of Manufacturers
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers
Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
Travel Goods Association
Waste Equipment Technology Association
Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (WMMA)