

In December 2014, President Obama made a historic announcement: decades after severing diplomatic ties, the United States would move toward normalizing relations with Cuba. The United States and Cuba reopened embassies in each others capitals in 2015, but restrictions on travel, trade and investment remain. The United States has eased some of these restrictions, but lifting them completely will be up to Congress.

- Manufacturers support the ongoing efforts to achieve normal trade relations with Cuba, and we strongly encourage Congress to advance legislation that will open trade and investment opportunities for manufacturers in the United States and support those Cubans who are seeking new economic and political opportunities.
- Over the past year, the U.S. government has eased restrictions on exports to Cuba and issued changes to facilitate authorized travel to the island. There remains, though, a long road ahead for both countries to expand trade and investment opportunities.
- The Cuban government should respond to these changes by allowing U.S. companies to trade directly with the emerging Cuban private sector and by continuing market-oriented reforms that facilitate foreign investment and boost private sector growth.
- Manufacturers are committed to sharing with the Cuban people the values that make America exceptional: free enterprise, competitiveness, individual liberty and equal opportunity. The core values of enterprise, property rights and rule of law are not only the conditions that create growth and prosperity, they are the necessary foundation for personal and political liberty.
- With a more open commercial relationship, manufacturers in the United States can bring innovation to Cubas emerging private sector.
- Increased access to technology will only amplify and speed the progress of would-be entrepreneurs who are clamoring to create opportunities in Cuba and transform the island.
- Cubans will need tools, supplies, building materials and training to implement a more innovative, business-friendly economy. The executive actions so far allow American citizens and businesses to address some of those needs, and the Cuban government should allow its citizens to take full advantage of their assistance.
- Public opinion embraces engagement with Cuba. In fact, a majority of Americans in four heartland states support the decision to restore diplomatic ties with Cuba. They also favor lifting the trade embargo and all restrictions on travel to the island.
- As the largest island in the Caribbean and with close proximity to the United States, Cuba is well-positioned to become a market for U.S. goods and services. In a recent report, the U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that agricultural and manufactured goods exports could increase by approximately by more than \$2 billion if Cuba undertakes the kind of market-opening policies that are common in other developing countries.