

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 31, 2014

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf  
Chairman  
Commerce, Justice, and Science  
and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-309, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking Member  
Commerce, Justice, and Science  
and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

We are writing to express our support for the International Trade Administration's (ITA) Global Markets division. As you develop the FY 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to fund Global Markets at \$338 million, the amount requested by the Department of Commerce.

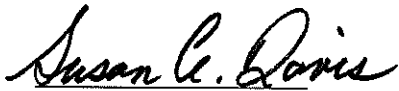
ITA's Global Markets division plays a central role in promoting U.S. exports and attracting foreign investment, particularly through the United States Foreign and Commercial Service (CS). The members of CS are the only federal workers in the U.S. government solely tasked with promoting American products and services in markets around the world. These officers assist U.S. businesses in beginning or increasing their exports to key markets in close to 80 countries. By promoting U.S. products abroad, including introducing U.S. businesses to new markets and officials, and supporting business development at home, members of the CS work to improve our nation's competitiveness, bolster long-term economic growth, and help to maintain and support job creation in the U.S.

Unfortunately, at precisely the time when our country is most in need of export promotion, the CS faces a significant staffing shortfall. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported in a 2010 that "since 2004 the workforce of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (CS) has shrunk, calling into question the ability of this key agency to increase its activities to assist U.S. businesses with their exports." We are concerned that without the funds requested by the Department of Commerce, the CS will have insufficient resources to carry out their chief mission of export promotion.

While Canada and Mexico have long been the U.S. primary trading partners, we are concerned that the absence of permanent CS personnel in key areas, such as in Tijuana, prevent American exporters from full realizing the benefits of these trade relationships. A lack of adequate staffing along our southern border also puts Department-wide priorities, such as the Look South initiative, which aims to increase American exports throughout Latin America, at risk.

In closing, we urge you to fund ITA's Global Markets division at the requested amount of \$338 million for FY2015 so as to allow American exporters to take full advantage of the global supply chains that increasingly define our nation's economy.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



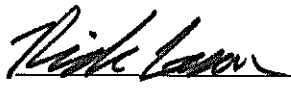
Bill Owens  
Member of Congress



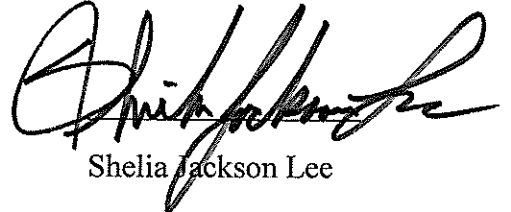
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Shelia Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



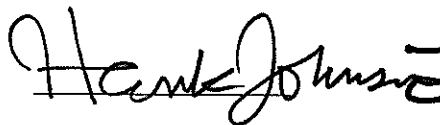
Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress



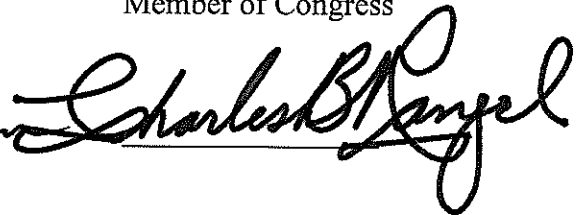
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



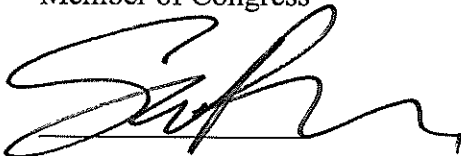
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress