Coalition for Security and Competitiveness Commends Administration’s Progress on Export Control Reform Initiative

Coalition Calls on Policymakers to Keep Building Momentum for Next Phase of Reform

Washington, D.C. – The Coalition for Security and Competitiveness (CSC) today sent a letter to President Barack Obama commending progress made by the Administration on its initiative to reform the outdated U.S. export control regime. With the first phase of the initiative coming to a close, the Coalition called on the Administration not to lose sight of the original objectives of the reform program, to build on its accomplishments and continue the momentum as the next phase of reform efforts begin.

The Coalition wrote:

“… CSC has supported this effort from its inception, and we are pleased to see the initiative yielding tangible benefits for exporters, while advancing our broader national security interests.

“… As you consider priorities for the next phase of export control reform, we urge you to focus on those actions that will now contribute most to realization of the goals your Administration articulated when the initiative was first launched. We urge you to give priority to building upon the foundation laid by rationalization of the controlled technology lists and that you turn your attention to important and long-needed licensing management reforms – in particular reforms that can reduce the export licensing caseload (the ‘95’), which continues to grow, to further contribute to partnership building with our allies and friends. Many of the other issues your officials have indicated they plan to examine in the future, such as cloud computing, record keeping, cyber security, and possibly encryption, are subjects that industry fears will lead to more controls and more complex compliance requirements…

“… While we would not suggest you forgo changes you believe to be in our security interests, we believe the Administration’s further efforts should also recognize the development of new technologies globally, their wide availability in the global commercial marketplace, and the preference for multi-lateral versus unilateral controls. We also recommend that you move up on your future priority list items that would achieve the goals originally laid out in 2010.

“… Finally we urge that these Export Control Management Reforms be integrated with a clearly defined defense trade strategy that focuses on strategic regional and programmatic priorities, effective trade promotion and advocacy, and competitive and flexible financing options.”
About the Coalition:

The Coalition for Security and Competitiveness was launched on March 6, 2007, when it provided President Bush with initial recommendations for enhancing U.S. security and competitiveness through modernization of the export control system. Formed by eight leading associations, the Coalition seeks to modernize the export control system so that America is prepared to meet the security and economic challenges of the 21st century.

###