

February 4, 2009

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As companies and associations with major operations and millions of employees across the entire United States economy, we strongly share your objective to promote economic recovery through a robust economic stimulus package that brings the maximum benefit to the U.S. economy, its companies and workers. To achieve that recovery, we urge you to ensure that stimulus legislation not include the unnecessary and trade-restrictive Buy American expansions currently being considered.

At this critical juncture, the United States must lead the world out of protectionism, not into it. The proposed House and Senate expansions of already robust Buy American laws send the wrong message at the worst possible time to our trading partners around the world and to markets nervous about rising trade barriers.

The proposed Buy American expansions go against the spirit and letter of our binding international commitments in the World Trade Organization and numerous bilateral agreements. They flout the commitment to refrain from new trade restrictions, which the United States led the G-20 to adopt less than three months ago. They invite our trading partners to retaliate by closing their own markets. In so doing, they risk creating a downward protectionist spiral that will hurt millions of American workers who rely upon global engagement for their jobs through exports, foreign direct investment and imports. In short, the proposed Buy American expansions would have the effect of costing – not protecting – American jobs, surrendering the United States' historical leadership in safeguarding the global economy, and ultimately making the global economic crisis worse and longer.

U.S. law already contains carefully-crafted Buy American provisions that secure access of U.S. domestic suppliers to our government procurement markets. The proposed expansions would serve only to impose additional costs on the U.S. Government and U.S. taxpayers, creating not more, but fewer American jobs and less economic stimulus for the United States.

Mr. President, events of the past year make plainly evident that we are in a global economic crisis, for which protectionist measures are no solution. We look forward to working with you to ensure that these proposals are eliminated from the final stimulus packages so that we can grow our economy once again.

Respectfully,

ABB  
The ACE Group of Insurance and Reinsurance Companies  
Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.  
Aerojet  
Aerospace Supply Chain Solutions, LLC  
Alcatel-Lucent USA  
Alticor, Inc.

AgustaWestland North America Inc.  
Avaya Inc.  
Axcelis Technologies, Inc.  
BAE Systems, Inc.  
BASF Corporation  
Boston Scientific Corp.  
Case New Holland Inc.  
Caterpillar Inc.  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
Citibank N.A.  
Cummins Inc.  
Dassault Falcon Jet  
Diageo PLC  
The Dow Chemical Company  
ESIS, Inc.  
EMC  
Eastman Kodak Company  
Finmeccanica North America, Inc.  
Freescale  
Forsberg International Logistics, LLC  
Fujitsu  
General Electric Company  
Hewlett-Packard Company  
IBM Corporation  
International Bancshares Corporation  
International Bank of Commerce  
ITT Corporation  
John Deere  
Lexmark International, Inc.  
Lockheed Martin Corporation  
Manitowoc Company Inc.  
The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.  
McKesson Corporation  
Microsoft Corporation  
NEC Corporation of America  
Nestlé USA  
Nestlé Waters North America  
Nestlé Purina Petcare  
Oldcastle Inc.  
Oracle Corporation  
Panasonic Corporation of North America  
PCS VacDry USA LLC  
Philips Electronics North America  
Pinkerton Government Services, Inc.  
Plantronics, Inc.  
The Procter & Gamble Company  
SAP America  
Siemens Corporation  
Sony  
Spirit Electronics, Inc.

Stone Construction Equipment, Inc.  
Sumitomo Corporation  
Symantec  
TEREX  
TIGHTCO, Inc.  
Teradyne  
Texas Instruments Incorporated  
Transact Technologies  
Trimble Navigation Limited  
Unilever United States  
United Technologies Corporation  
US Trading & Investment Company  
Volvo Group North America  
Windings, Inc.  
XOCECO USA  
Xerox Corporation

The Advanced Medical Technology Association  
Aerospace Industries Association  
American Business Conference  
American Chemistry Council  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Meat Institute  
Associated Builders & Contractors  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Association of International Automobile Manufacturers, Inc.  
Business Roundtable  
The Associated General Contractors of America  
The Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Brazil-U.S. Business Council  
Business Software Alliance  
California Chamber of Commerce  
Canadian American Business Council  
The Coalition for Government Procurement  
Coalition of Service Industries  
Computer & Communications Industry Association  
Computing Technology Industry Association  
Consumer Electronics Association  
Consuming Industries Trade Action Coalition  
Emergency Committee for American Trade  
European-American Business Council  
European Council of American Chambers of Commerce  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Hong Kong-U.S. Business Council  
Information Technology Industry Council  
International Wood Product Association  
Middle East Council of American Chambers of Commerce  
National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Defense Industrial Association

National Electronic Distributors Association  
National Foreign Trade Council  
Ohio Alliance for International Trade  
Organization for International Investment  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association  
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
Software & Information Industry Association  
Technology Association of America (formerly AeA and ITAA)  
Technology CEO Council  
Telecommunications Industry Association  
United States Council for International Business  
US-ASEAN Business Council  
U.S.-Bahrain Business Council  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
US-China Business Council  
U.S.-India Business Council  
U.S.-Korea Business Council  
U.S.-Pakistan Business Council  
U.S.-UAE Business Council  
Washington Council on International Trade