

# NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, INC.

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February 2, 2004

The Honorable Sadakazu Tanigaki  
Minister of Finance  
3-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 100-8940, Japan  
VIA FACSIMILE: 81-3-3597-0895


Dear Minister Tanigaki:


We are writing to express our support for the recently renegotiated tax treaty between Japan and the United States and to urge its prompt ratification. Both Japanese and American companies stand to gain a great deal upon the completion of this monumental treaty, and early ratification will further facilitate commerce between our countries. The treaty provides for early implementation of the provisions that eliminate certain withholding taxes if the ratification process is completed by the end of March.

The National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC), organized in 1914, is an association of over 300 U.S. business enterprises. Our members, many of which are significant investors in Japan, covers a full spectrum of industrial, commercial, financial, and service activities. The NFTC leads the U.S. business community in matters of tax treaty negotiation and ratification as part of its advocacy of an open world trading system.

Members of the NFTC would very much appreciate completion of the ratification process by both countries by the end of March. It is our understanding that the U.S. is on schedule in that regard. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a ratification hearing on February 25<sup>th</sup> in order to allow sufficient time for completion of all of the ratification procedures by the end of March. The NFTC and its members hope for the same swift action from the government of Japan and are eager to assist in accomplishing that objective. If we can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

  
William Reinsch  
President

  
Judy Scarabello  
Vice President for Tax Policy

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The Honorable Sadakazu Tanigaki  
Minister of Finance

cc: The Honorable Takashi Yonezawa, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs (Lower House)  
VIA FACSIMILE: 81-3-3508-3351

The Honorable Ryotaro Tanose, Chairman, Committee on Financial Affairs (Lower House)  
VIA FACSIMILE: 81-3-3591-6569

The Honorable Ichita Yamamoto, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense  
(Upper House) VIA FACSIMILE: 81-3-3508-2281

The Honorable Sadao Hirano, Chairman, Committee on Financial Affairs (Upper House)  
VIA FACSIMILE: 81-3-3591-0779

The Honorable Ryoza Kato, Ambassador, VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 328-2187

The Honorable Howard Baker, Ambassador, VIA FACSIMILE: 81-3-3224-5312

The Honorable John Snow, Secretary of the Treasury VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 622-0073