

**American Farm Bureau Federation  
Business Roundtable  
Coalition of Service Industries  
Emergency Committee for American Trade  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Foreign Trade Counsel  
United States Council for International Business  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

October 28, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are writing to urge that the Committee on Finance act on the nomination of Michael Punke to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Deputy United States Trade Representative as soon as possible. We strongly support this nomination and also believe that it is important that the ambassadorial post not be left vacant at a time when critical issues affecting America's economy and the interests of U.S. manufacturers, farmers and service providers are under negotiation in the WTO's Doha Development Agenda Round. These negotiations, if successful, will help the United States attain its overarching goal to promote U.S. economic opportunities and growth in the years and decades to come.

The absence of our ambassador in Geneva works against the achievement of our country's trade priorities -- that you both established legislatively -- and which have the backing of the business and agricultural communities. More immediately, we need our ambassador in place to advance those priorities at the Seventh Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled to be held in a matter of weeks.

We know that Mr. Punke has the broad knowledge base required for the post. As well, his work on international trade and investment policy on

Capitol Hill and in the White House, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the private sector has allowed him to hone his natural political skills, so that he can put his knowledge to work immediately – without the need for on-the-job training – for the benefit of all Americans.

We appreciate your consideration of our views and look forward to the confirmation hearing of Michael Punke.

Sincerely,

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