



## ASIA-PACIFIC COUNCIL OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

July 13, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC), which has 27 chapters in 21 economies across Asia and represents the interests of more than ten thousand American businesses in the Asia Pacific region, I am writing to urge the Senate to adopt the increase in funding for the International Trade Administration and the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce, as recently approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Senate version of H.R. 2847, includes additional funding in FY2010 over the President's request to address significant staff reductions that have occurred in the Foreign Commercial Service due to inadequate funding, and supports other improvements to the Foreign Commercial Service workforce. APCAC would also support a floor amendment that increased the funding for the Foreign Commercial Service over and above the Committee bill, should one be offered.

U.S. companies of all sizes operating abroad rely on the assistance they receive from the Foreign Commercial Service's Commercial Counselors, officers and country trade experts who enable U.S. companies to leverage their marketing and sales efforts to win government contracts and generate U.S. exports creating jobs at home. Support for the US and Foreign Commercial Service is especially critical to small and medium sized U.S. businesses which may not have the resources to mount marketing operations abroad, and particularly important in the Asia Pacific region due to the economic growth of many key emerging markets. Developing opportunities for U.S. companies to sell their products in key markets in Asia will create new jobs in the United States and contribute to our economic recovery.

On behalf of the American businesses which APCAC represents in the Asia Pacific region, we urge that the Senate approve increased funding for the US and Foreign Commercial Service.

Sincerely,



Kristin Paulson

Chair

Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC)

cc: The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations