

The Honorable John Bryson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

JAN 06 2012

Dear Secretary Bryson:

The members of the Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC) are deeply appreciative of the work undertaken by the Administration, particularly that of Ambassador Kirk and the staff of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, in helping shepherd an agreement at the recent Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit to promote trade and investment in environmental goods and services.

This commitment – to eliminate and refrain from adopting new trade-distorting domestic content requirements by 2012 and reduce applied tariff rates to 5 percent or less by 2015 – serves as a major milestone in a decade-long effort to liberalize trade in environmental goods and services. Protectionist trade measures such as “Buy American” have been particularly burdensome to our industry in limiting our ability to utilize global supply chains and threatening our access to foreign markets. Since most of our work is done at the *municipal* level, we have not been subject to such requirements in the past, nor are we granted the privileges associated with the World Trade Organization’s Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) and U.S. free trade agreements as it pertains to procurement. Consequently, such protectionist measures have hurt our industry’s competitiveness both domestically and abroad.

Our nation and others are faced with having to invest trillions to repair deteriorating infrastructure, protect public health and the environment, create green jobs, and meet sustainable development objectives. As a result, it is imperative that we act swiftly to implement this agreement.

Swift implementation of this agreement is reliant on the fact that the list of environmental goods and services to be subject to tariff cuts be as *all inclusive* as possible if we are to achieve our export trade goals and offer solutions to meet the enormous environmental challenges facing today’s society. Any attempt to limit the scope of environmental goods and services covered by this agreement - for the purpose of expediency, for example - would be a major disservice to our industry in its effort to bring the full plethora of technologies and expertise that it has to offer to the global marketplace. At worst, it could exacerbate environmental challenges if, for example, reduced tariffs on climate- and energy-related products were to encourage their use without proper consideration being given to stresses being placed on dwindling water supplies worldwide. It is imperative that *all* U.S. environmental goods and services be made available as quickly and cost-effectively as possible to meet society’s environmental and public health needs.

As Chair of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, we look toward your leadership in ensuring that this gets accomplished and that ETTAC has an opportunity to meet with the key U.S. negotiators at the earliest possible time to assist in its development and implementation.

Sincerely,

  
Brian H. Davis  
Acting Chair, ETTAC