



Washington Council on International Trade

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**WCIT Emphasizes Importance of a Strong NAFTA In Response to Trump Administration's Announcement of NAFTA Modernization Goals**

SEATTLE – In light of the Trump Administration's announcement of goals for NAFTA's modernization, the Washington Council on International Trade (WCIT) emphasizes the importance of maintaining the current agreement's benefits while modernizing the deal for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"WCIT has been vocal about supporting a modernization effort that reflects new technologies and ways of doing business and incorporating improvements made by the Trans-Pacific Partnership," said Lori Otto Punke, President of WCIT. "We are encouraged the administration is abiding by Trade Promotion Authority guidelines and posting its goals at least 30 days before negotiations can begin.

"We will continue to advocate for a modernized NAFTA that updates digital trade rules; streamlines regulations and customs processes; addresses technical barriers to trade; expands market access for more Washington-produced products; and protects our businesses' current benefits under the trade deal. We urge the administration to thoughtfully approach the modernization process in a way that strengthens our trade relationships with Canada and Mexico."

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**About the Washington Council on International Trade**

WCIT is the only organization in Washington dedicated exclusively to advocating for public policies that increase our state's international competitiveness. On behalf of its members — manufacturers, farmers, retailers and service providers – WCIT advocates for trade policies and investments that benefit Washington's workers and employers.

- **Evaluate** and share objective data on the impact of trade policies on Washington's economy
- **Educate** our local, state and federal elected officials about the benefits of strong international trade policies and investments to Washington employers and residents
- **Engage** diverse stakeholders from across the state – including manufacturers, retailers, farmers and service providers - to drive policy changes that help them succeed in the global marketplace

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