



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WCIT Comments on US-China Phased Deal

The recent announcement of a "Phase One" deal is encouraging news for Washington State.

China is one of Washington's most significant trade partners. 29% of Washington goods sent outside of the U.S. go to China. Our state's retail and manufacturing companies rely on China as part of global supply chains, and, as a critical gateway to Asia. Washington port, freight and logistics workers benefit from this trading relationship. Our high-tech industry sells more than \$1.5 billion in services to this market. As a result, trade tensions with China risk the 127,000 jobs that rely on this two-way trade.

While the "Phase One" deal appears to be more about buy commitments than structural reform in the China market or the ending of the current "tariff-first" policy, we hope this initial agreement is a step towards a more constructive and meaningful resolution. Representing our diverse membership of high-tech firms, businesses, farmers, ranchers and workers, the Washington Council on International Trade believes future negotiations should continue to seek ways to level the playing field. This includes pushing for the removal of barriers for U.S. goods and services into China, including digital trade barriers, enforcing current trade policies, addressing highly restrictive foreign investment rules, and protecting our intellectual property from infringement. A more fair and open trade relationship with China will benefit all sectors of the Washington State economy and help drive exports, services, and job growth that are critical to our businesses, workers, farmers and communities throughout the state.

ABOUT WASHINGTON COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

On behalf of our members – manufacturers, farmers, retailers, service providers and non-profits – the Washington Council on International Trade advocates for pro-trade policies and investments that benefit Washington's workers and employers. Trade paves the way for Washington-made goods and services to reach foreign markets, provides Washingtonians with products that raise our quality of life, and sustains family-wage jobs in numerous local industries. To learn more, visit us at <http://www.wcit.org>.