



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Jane Harris  
206-800-2300  
media@wcit.org

## **The Washington Council on International Trade Comments on Signing of US-China "Phase One" Trade Agreement**

**SEATTLE** – Wednesday's White House signing of the U.S.- China Phase One agreement represents a positive step in the easing of trade tensions between the two nations. However, as more details of the pact become available, some key questions remain about the real impact of this agreement on the State of Washington that underscore the importance of future talks to address important structural issues in this trade relationship.

China is one of Washington state's most significant trade partners with many Washington businesses, farmers, and workers relying on this vital relationship. 29% of Washington goods sent outside of the U.S. go to China, and as many as 127,000 jobs rely on this two-way trade. Improvements in trade between the U.S. and China need to go beyond buy commitments and move to a relationship that is defined more by addressing real structural reforms and less by the imposition of tariffs. We believe it is imperative to build on the Phase One agreement with future talks focused on leveling the playing field through the removal of barriers -- including digital barriers -- for goods and services into China, 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.

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### **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>.