



Statement from Lori Otto Punke, President of the Washington Council on International Trade on U.S. Senate Confirmation of Katherine Tai to be United States Trade Representative

SEATTLE, WA March 17, 2021 – The Washington Council on International Trade welcomes today’s U.S. Senate confirmation of Katherine Tai as the 19th United States Trade Representative and the first Asian American to hold this position. Throughout this process, she has demonstrated a deep understanding of the importance of international trade to our national economy, an appreciation for strong cooperation with Members of Congress and a mastery of the complex and demanding issues that will define trade policy in the coming years. Together with the Washington state Congressional delegation, we look forward to working with USTR Tai and her staff to explore new market opportunities and develop policies that will benefit trade active Washingtonians -- farmers, fishermen, ranchers, inventors, software and services suppliers, professionals, workers and small and large business owners.

Having received unanimous support from both sides of the aisle (98-0 vote), the Tai confirmation represents the potential for the Administration and Congress to work together in support of smart trade policies and shift away from a tariff-first approach that has harmed many sectors of the Washington state economy. Last month’s Senate Finance Committee confirmation hearing reflected a broad consensus among Republicans and Democrats alike in support of international trade and its role as an engine of economic growth and good paying jobs. We stand ready to work with Congress and the Administration to leverage this favorable environment in ways that will benefit the Washington state economy.

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>.