



Statement from WCIT President Lori Otto Punke on jumpstarting US-China trade policy

Seattle, September 13, 2021 – International trade continues to be a vital engine of United States economic growth and job creation, particularly in trade-reliant regions like the Pacific Northwest. Forty percent of Washington state jobs rely on international commerce and trade, and 95 percent of consumers live outside of the U.S. However, the combination of counterproductive tariffs and a stalled U.S. trade policy is hindering our state’s economic recovery. Particularly concerning China, one of Washington state’s largest and most important trade partners, the ongoing trade policy status quo negatively impacts our businesses, farmers, workers and communities.

Today, WCIT joins with other [business organizations and associations](#) to call on the Biden Administration to quickly reengage with China on trade and economic issues and act swiftly to address the costly and burdensome tariffs and retaliatory tariffs that negatively impact Washington state consumers and businesses alike.

We support the Biden Administration’s efforts to hold China accountable for the commitments made in the Phase One Agreement reached in January of 2020. We urge the Administration to continue to address the challenges identified in USTR’s Section 301 investigation, including state subsidies, procurement, cybersecurity, digital trade, services, competition policy, protection for new drugs and biological products, agriculture, and manufacturing. We also urge a restart of the tariff exclusion process to mitigate damage to US stakeholders and increase engagement to address structural concerns.

We stand ready to support the Administration in efforts to pursue policies and agreements that will further open China’s market and level the playing field for Washington state goods and services.

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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>