



Great Lakes
Metro Chambers Coalition

June 12, 2017

PUBLIC DOCUMENT - docket number USTR-2017-0006

Submitted via Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>

Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Re: NAFTA Negotiations

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

On behalf of the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition (GLMCC) - composed of nearly 40 Chambers of Commerce in the Great Lakes states - I submit these comments for consideration during renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) [pursuant to 82 Fed. Reg. 23699 (May 23, 2017)].

The Great Lakes Region is one of the world's most important economic engines, covering all or parts of twelve states and two Canadian provinces. If our region was a nation, it would be the third largest economy in the world with a combined gross domestic product of more than \$5.7 trillion.

The overarching goal of GLMCC is to improve the Great Lakes economy. Efficient, facile trade between Canada and the US is essential to the economic development in our region. As you may be aware, Canada is the #1 trading partner for every one of the Great Lakes states and over two million jobs in U.S. Great Lakes states depend on this strong relationship and the ease of trade between our countries.

With the goal of growing the Great Lakes region's economy and creating more jobs in the Great Lakes states, GLMCC encourages you to work toward increased border efficiency,

visa programs which support an interdependent US-Canada workforce, and expedited resolution of differences between US and Canadian regulations which may inhibit trade.

Increased Border Efficiency

In recent years the US and Canada have implemented technology improvements to make the movement of people and goods across the US-Canada border quicker and more efficient. The GLMCC applauds these efforts and encourages the US Trade Representative to endorse the continued review of systems, processes and technology in order make necessary administrative activity easy and quick for the customer.

Visa Programs

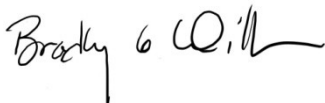
In recent decades, the Great Lakes states have realized a decrease in population. While we are working diligently to reverse that trend, we rely on foreign workers to help the Great Lakes region develop high-tech corridors and to continue growth of some traditional Great Lakes industry sectors. We respectfully request that the US-Canada trade discussions endorse visa policies which reflect the importance of a strong supply of immigrant workers in the Great Lakes states.

Regulatory Cooperation

Regulatory cooperation and efficiency between the US and Canada is essential to the growth of the Great Lakes economy. We urge you to support the US-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council and implement processes for accelerating regulatory alignment where necessary to facilitate efficient trade between our countries.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments on behalf of the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition. We are hopeful that NAFTA renegotiation will result in additional efforts to facilitate seamless trade between Canada and the United States recognizing that the entire region will benefit and become more competitive internationally. Please do not hesitate to let me know if we may provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Brad Williams
Executive Director, GLMCC

Members of the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition

Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber of Commerce
Allegheny Conference
Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Detroit Regional Chamber
Duluth Chamber of Commerce
Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership
Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce
Greater Cleveland Partnership
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce
Greater Louisville Inc. – The Metro Chamber of Commerce
Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce
Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance
Plattsburgh North Country Chamber of Commerce
Quad Cities Chamber
Rockford Chamber of Commerce
Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Michigan First
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce