



January 12, 2012

Mr. Douglas Bell
Chair
Trade Policy Staff Committee
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
Washington, D.C.

RE: Canada's Expression of Interest in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Negotiations

Dear Mr. Bell:

The Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association ("WWEMA") fully supports Canada's petition to join in on the Trans-Pacific Partnership ("TPP") negotiations.

As the national organization representing companies that manufacture and supply sophisticated leading products and technology for potable water and wastewater treatment applications, WWEMA is keenly aware of the critical nature of trade relations between our two countries, especially in light of the significant trade disruptions that were caused as a result of the Buy American provisions contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, resulting in project delays, reduced competition, administrative burdens, cost overruns, and retaliation on the part of our most favored trading partners.

So many of our U.S. member companies rely on Canadian suppliers to provide valuable components and accessories as part of their product offerings, giving U.S. municipalities access to the most affordable and effective treatment technologies to meet their environmental needs. Conversely, we continue to enjoy a positive trade balance with Canada, exporting billions of dollars worth of water and wastewater products annually for use in their complex infrastructure projects. Many of our U.S. member companies also have operations and service centers or sales offices in Canada, further demonstrating the cross-border investment, specialization of manufacturing, and shared distribution networks between our two countries.

Today, we have an opportunity to strengthen the voice of *North American* manufacturers at the TPP negotiating table by bringing Canada in as an ally and partner. Together, we can work to ensure that restrictive rules of origin requirements are not a component of this ambitious 21st century agreement, that reductions in tariffs and non-tariff barriers are universally enacted, that government procurement is transparent and open to all signatories to the agreement, and that high standards are put in place to protect intellectual property and the environment. Failure to act in unison as a North American block could jeopardize our highly-integrated supply chains to the detriment of all U.S. industry.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kristof Champney
President

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