

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
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March 28, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Americans for Better Borders (ABB) coalition, and the other groups listed below, I urge you to cosponsor H.R. 1061, the "Protecting American Commerce and Travel Act" (PACT Act). The PACT Act improves the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) by providing safeguards to ensure that WHTI is efficiently implemented.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation, representing more than three million businesses of every size, sector, and region. Chamber members on both the U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada borders have great interest in assuring the proper implementation of the WHTI.

The Chamber also chairs the ABB coalition. This coalition unites regional business organizations, a wide array of companies, and national trade associations representing manufacturing, hospitality, tourism, transportation, recreation and other industry sectors, to work to ensure the efficient flow of tourism and goods across our borders while addressing national security concerns. The Chamber, ABB, and the signatories below, support WHTI's goal of strengthening border security by making sure the government knows the identity and nationality of those who enter or re-enter the United States. This can be achieved, while also facilitating entry into the United States for U.S. citizens and legitimate international travelers, without undue burden or harm to the economy.

The PACT Act requires the Department of State (State) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to complete at least one pilot project to determine if states may be able to enhance driver licenses to meet WHTI standards before final implementation. Given that approximately 25 percent of Americans have passports, while most adults have driver licenses, working with the states could lead to an extremely beneficial solution that does not compromise national security or the economy. The PACT Act would exempt U.S. and Canadian children 16 and younger from the WHTI documentary requirements, and encourages flexibility for school groups. Excluding children from the passport requirement will continue to encourage families to travel across U.S. borders.

State and DHS are also developing the People Access Security Service (“PASS”) system—a card-format passport for international travel by U.S. citizens through land and sea ports of entry between the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. The PACT Act would set the cost of the PASS card at \$20 for the first year of issuance in order to encourage early compliance. An applicant would then receive the card within 10 business days after the State Department receives the application. The PACT Act would also expand and improve frequent traveler programs for low-risk travelers (NEXUS) and commercial drivers (FAST). Finally, the PACT Act would require DHS and State to develop and implement a WHTI public promotion campaign, and to complete a cost-benefit analysis of the final WHTI plan before implementation.

Collectively, we have been asking for these improvements to the WHTI since it was first announced. For these reasons, we support the PACT Act, and look forward to working together towards its enactment into law.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

American Bus Association
American Chamber/Canada
American Chamber/Mexico
American Hotel and Lodging Association
American Trucking Associations
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Binational Tourism Alliance
Business for Economic Security, Trade and Tourism Coalition of the US & Canada
Campbell Soup Company
Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance
Canadian American Business Council
Clallam County Economic Development Council
Detroit Regional Chamber
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Grocery Manufacturers Association/Food Products Association
Ingersoll Rand Company
International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions
International Association of Exhibitions and Events
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Marriott International, Inc.
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
National Foreign Trade Council
National Tour Association
Pacific Corridor Enterprise Council

Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce
Quebec-New York Corridor Coalition
U.S. Council for International Business
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce