



## Global Business Supports an Ambitious and Rapid Conclusion to an Environmental Goods Agreement at the World Trade Organization

July 8, 2014

An open letter to WTO negotiators:

Business associations from around the world strongly endorse efforts to negotiate an Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) under the World Trade Organization (WTO).

We urge governments to make the swift negotiation of an ambitious international agreement to eliminate tariffs on a broad range of environmental goods a priority.

Global trade in environmental goods is already estimated to be around \$1 trillion annually, and growing quickly. According to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Trade Centre and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, trade in environmental products more than doubled globally from 2001 to 2007, and exports by developing countries rose as fast as those by developed economies.

An ambitious EGA will further increase global trade in environmental goods, lowering the cost of addressing environmental and climate challenges by removing tariffs that can be as high as 35 percent.

In addition to its intrinsic commercial importance and desirability, a well-designed EGA can act as a stepping stone to lowering tariffs and other trade barriers in other sectors and associated value chains.

We commend trade officials for advancing significant work already, which has provided a strong basis for the EGA negotiations.

Global industry strongly endorses an EGA that is –

1. Commercially significant
2. Negotiated in a timely fashion
3. Implementable
4. Inclusive of as many economies as possible, provided that new entrants are supportive of a commercially significant result, and
5. Flexible to accommodate and adjust to innovation

We are committed to working with governments around the world to ensure a commercially meaningful Environmental Goods Agreement that promotes economic growth, improves environmental outcomes and advances innovation.

Sincerely,

Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Australian Industry Group  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy  
Business Council of Australia  
Business NZ  
Business Unity South Africa  
Canadian Electricity Association | Association canadienne de l'électricité  
Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance  
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters  
Canadian Renewable Fuels Association  
China Association of Lighting Industry  
Clean Energy Council  
Coalition of Services Industries  
Communications and Information Network Association of Japan  
Confederation of Danish Industries  
Emergency Committee for American Trade  
European Photovoltaic Industry Association  
European Wind Energy Association  
Federation of Hong-Kong Industries

Greenhouse Cleantech Limited  
Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries  
Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Information Technology Industry Council  
Innovation Norway  
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
International Photovoltaic Equipment Association  
Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association  
Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association  
Japan Lighting Manufacturers Association  
Japan Machinery Center for Trade and Investment  
Keidanren, Japan Business Federation  
Korea International Trade Association  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association  
National Foreign Trade Council  
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
SETI Alliance  
Singapore Business Federation  
Solar Energy Industries Association  
Sustainable Business Australia  
Sustainable Energy Association of Australia  
Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association  
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce | La Chambre de commerce du Canada  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Council for International Business  
World Energy Council