

February 23, 2011

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Republican Leader  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Baucus and Hatch:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing hundreds of thousands of American businesses that interact with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in conducting international trade, we write in support of the nomination of Alan D. Bersin to be Commissioner. As you know, CBP has not had a Senate-confirmed leader for two years. The President recently resubmitted Mr. Bersin's nomination to the Senate and we urge his confirmation.

We have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Bersin for the past year and have been impressed by the change that he is pursuing for the agency. First, Mr. Bersin has taken significant steps to increase outreach to and participation from the private sector on many issues. Almost immediately upon assuming the responsibilities of Commissioner, he sought our input and responded proactively by initiating action on a number of our recommendations. Second, Mr. Bersin is an advocate for modernizing CBP and is working jointly within CBP and with industry to accomplish that goal. Lastly, he has listened to concerns raised by Congress and industry by repeatedly stating that enhanced security and trade facilitation are not mutually exclusive.

Customs and Border Protection needs a dynamic leader that is capable of transformative leadership skills to appropriately modernize and change the agency for the betterment of security and trade. Mr. Bersin is this dynamic leader. He has already set in motion meaningful change and his leadership is needed to ensure this continues.

Respectfully,

American Association of Importers and Exporters  
American Trucking Association  
Business Coalition for Customs Modernization  
Express Association of America  
Joint Industry Group  
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America  
National Industrial Transportation League  
National Retail Federation  
U.S. Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
World Shipping Council