

What Should Be the Focus of Biden's Trade Team?

The Biden administration has set an ambitious international agenda, from managing [complex trade dynamics with China](#) to addressing climate change and data governance. That's not to mention a host of domestic priorities centered around combatting COVID-19 and jumpstarting the economy.

As the United States seeks to [restore its leadership on the world stage](#) and support U.S. companies working around the globe, it's critical that the new trade team—from the White House to the Office of the [U.S. Trade Representative](#) (USTR) and across the cabinet—remain focused on the big picture.

Why trade matters: More than 95% of the world's consumers live outside the United States. To support economic growth and job creation and home, it's critical to secure better access to those markets to allow the export of more American-made goods and services.

In our engagements with the new administration, here's what the U.S. Chamber is advocating:

- **Pursue Growth-Focused Trade Policy:** Much of today's trade debate revolves around imposing new conditions on trade as leverage to achieve objectives in areas ranging from labor and the environment to inequality. But even when there's consensus on these goals, harnessing trade to boost growth and job creation must be a priority for the millions of unemployed and underemployed Americans.
- **Restore "Regular Order" to Trade Policy:** Stakeholder consultation is a priority that the new administration appears to be taking seriously, a positive (and legally mandated) move. This keeps U.S. trade policy tethered to the expertise of individuals and businesses directly engaged in trade. Restoring the voice of Congress is also vital.
- **Restore Economics to its Rightful Place:** "Economics isn't just something you find in a textbook," tweeted Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on her first day on the job. The same should hold at USTR. The advice of economists, and not just trade lawyers, must be heard to ensure evidence-based trade policymaking, unlike the previous administration's misguided focus on the trade deficit.

Learn More:

- Read my full blog post on the "[Three Trade Imperatives for the Biden Administration](#)."

—John Murphy, Senior Vice President for International Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce