



CSI PUBLISHES NAFTA WITHDRAWAL ANALYSIS

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CSI Warns of Major Threats to U.S. Services and Digital Trade in the Event of a U.S. Withdrawal from NAFTA

Washington, DC (February 21, 2018) — The Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) has published an analysis of the impacts of a U.S. withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on U.S. services providers and digital trade.

“Through the creation of common and non-discriminatory trade rules, NAFTA has opened both the Canadian and Mexican markets to a diverse array of U.S. services providers, further strengthening the U.S. services trade relationship and role within the North American supply chain,” said CSI President Christine Bliss. “Without NAFTA, U.S. services providers and digital trade will be at a severe disadvantage, risking \$88 billion in U.S. services exports to Canada and Mexico and the nearly 600,000 high-paying American jobs those exports support.”

The analysis shows the harm that will be done to the American economy if the U.S. were to withdraw from the agreement, leaving U.S. services providers at a competitive disadvantage compared to European and Asian competitors—who serve to gain from preferential treatment from Canada and Mexico in the event of a NAFTA withdrawal. It also highlights the impact of loss of commitments on government procurement, where American firms have been the biggest winners, as well as NAFTA’s investment provisions, which have provided significant investment opportunities and protections, including binding dispute settlement and investor-state dispute settlement, to U.S. services providers in Canada and Mexico.

CSI urges continuing the positive progress that U.S. negotiators have made to date in modernizing the agreement, and look forward to continuing work with the Administration and Congress to ensure a winning, modernized NAFTA, which will further the success of the American services sector in the North American region and further promote U.S. economic growth.

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The Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) represents the interests of the dynamic American service economy, which employs over 75% of the workforce and generates 80% of national economic output. Since 1982, CSI has created greater public awareness of the major role services play in the U.S. economy, and it has shaped domestic and international economic policies on behalf of the services sector. The broad range of the U.S. service economy is reflected in CSI's membership, which includes major international companies from the banking, insurance, telecommunications, information technology, logistics and express delivery, audiovisual, retail, and other service industries. CSI members conduct business in all 50 states and in more than 100 countries.