



CSI PUBLISHES ANNUAL AGENDA

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CSI releases its 2018 Agenda, "Promoting American Competitiveness Through Services and Digitally Enabled Trade"

Washington, DC (February 7, 2018) — The Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) has published its 2018 agenda, *Promoting American Competitiveness Through Services and Digitally Enabled Trade*, outlining the organization's annual priorities. The agenda emphasizes the importance of services and digitally enabled trade and investment in promoting all aspects of the U.S. economy, exemplified by U.S. services exports hitting a record high of \$777.9 billion in 2017.

"CSI and its members continue to emphasize the notion that 'you cannot grow it, make it, move it, buy it or sell it without services.' Services and digitally enabled trade consistently generate major U.S. trade surpluses across the globe, support millions of American services sector jobs, and remain integral inputs to all segments of the economy, including manufacturing and agriculture," said CSI President Christine Bliss. "Services also promote the creation and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, a key source of U.S. jobs."

In advancing American competitiveness abroad, CSI prioritizes maintenance, full implementation and enforcement of current U.S. trade agreements, including the ongoing NAFTA negotiations, discussions on KORUS, and importance of addressing services trade and investment barriers in China. CSI also places great importance on potential U.S. engagement in discussions and negotiations in the Asia Pacific region; possible engagement with like-minded U.S. trading partners to address services and digital trade barriers; WTO-related discussions to explore launch of negotiations on e-commerce and continued support overall for the multilateral rules-based system.

CSI and its members look forward to continuing to work with the Administration and Congress to ensure strong relationships are built and maintained with our global trading partners, expanding opportunities for U.S. services providers, American services exports and investment.

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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.