



## “Let’s Solve ‘Buy American’ Once and For All” Canadian Chamber of Commerce

### Chamber Supports Efforts to Fight Protectionism

**Edmonton, June 8, 2009:** At its June Board meeting in Edmonton, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce expressed its support for efforts by the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to pursue bilateral discussions with the United States on to ensure that companies from both countries can bid on government procurement contracts.

The ‘Buy American’ provisions in the U.S. stimulus package have shut out Canadian companies from \$280 billion worth of state- and municipal-level government procurement opportunities in the United States. More disturbing still is that similar rules are being included in other pieces of legislation before the U.S. Congress.

“The joint efforts by the federal, provincial, and territorial governments is a first step to securing Canadian companies' access to the U.S. market now and in the future. We need to move urgently at the highest level to reach agreement between Canada and the United States,” said Perrin Beatty, the Canadian Chamber’s President and CEO.

Despite the understandable calls to retaliate against US protectionism, a trade war between our two countries would make matters worse. The Canadian Chamber supports a rules-based procurement deal with the United States to prevent that possibility.

“Everyone loses in a trade war, but it's the taxpayers who lose most by being forced to pay higher prices or accept inferior products. We need to keep our borders open and make sure taxpayers in both countries get the very best value for every dollar” noted Beatty.

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