

February 28, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell,

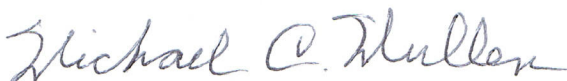
The 28 trade associations listed below are writing to urge you to expeditiously schedule a floor vote on the nomination of Mr. Gil Kerlikowske to be the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Together we represent a broad spectrum of the U.S. economy and a major percentage of the nation's GDP.

As you know, CBP has been without a Congressionally-approved Commissioner for nearly five years. In Mr. Kerlikowske, the Administration has nominated a candidate with extensive relevant experience who has worked successfully in a series of law enforcement and agency senior management positions. The Senate Finance Committee approved his nomination with a unanimous, bipartisan majority.

As the key agency responsible for security and trade facilitation, CBP is facing some major challenges in the near future. These include developing a regulation on the air cargo advance screening program, completing the development and deployment of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) and the International Trade Data System (ITDS), and continuing its efforts to facilitate legitimate trade in all modes of transportation. The U.S. business community views these programs as critical to our ability to maintain the competitive edge of U.S. enterprises, large and small, and keeping our economy on a path toward higher growth and employment.

To meet these challenges, CBP needs a Commissioner with the full support of Congress who can explain the resources required and the strategy to implement the required capabilities. We are ready to work with Mr. Kerlikowske to achieve these ambitious goals, and we hope you will bring his nomination to the floor for a vote at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully yours,



Michael C. Mullen
Executive Director
Express Association of America

CO-SIGNERS:

Airforwarders Association – AFA
Airlines for America – A4A
American Apparel & Footwear Association – AAFA
American Association of Exporters and Importers – AAEI
American Trucking Associations – ATA
Association for Postal Commerce – PostCom
Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance – CANAMBTA
Cargo Airline Association – CAA
Coalition of Service Industries – CSI
Emergency Committee for American Trade – ECAT
Express Association of America – EAA
Express Delivery and Logistics Association – XLA
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association – FASA
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America – FDRA
Grocery Manufacturers Association – GMA
International Air Transport Association – IATA
Information Technology Industry Council – ITIC
National Association of Free Trade Zones – NAFTAZ
National Association of Manufacturers – NAM
National Foreign Trade Council – NFTC
National Retail Federation – NRF
Retail Industry Leaders Association – RILA
TechAmerica
The International Air Cargo Association – TIACA
Travel Goods Association – TGA
United States Council for International Business – USCIB
United States Fashion Industry Association – USFIA
U.S. Business Alliance for Customs Modernization – BACM