



For Immediate Release

**U.S. CEOs Stress Support for Comprehensive,
High-Standard U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement**

April 5, 2019 – Japan-based CEOs of 10 U.S. Fortune 500 companies, members of a 14-person delegation representing the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ), met this week in Washington, D.C. with more than 40 Administration officials and Congressional representatives to stress their support for a comprehensive, high-standard U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement (USJTA).

The ACCJ executives discussed the Chamber's priorities with U.S. negotiators just before formal trade discussions are set to begin by both governments later this month. Signaling the importance of these negotiations, this was the largest and highest-level ACCJ delegation ever sent to Washington, D.C.

"Japan is a critical market for U.S. exporters and companies in a wide range of industries. We now face a competitive disadvantage in Japan with the 11-country CPTPP and the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement in place. It is essential to level the playing field in Japan for American exporters, companies, farmers, ranchers and workers. Reaching a comprehensive agreement with this valued trading partner and critical ally is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss," emphasized Peter Jennings, President of the ACCJ and Dow Chemical Japan.

"For the agreement to deliver the greatest return for American business and workers," added Chairman of the ACCJ, Christopher LaFleur, "we respectfully offered four guiding principles for U.S. negotiators." These principles include:

1. A comprehensive and high-standard agreement (USJTA) should reduce or eliminate tariff and non-tariff measures in all major sectors, across both goods and services, including measures in cross-cutting areas such as intellectual property, customs and trade facilitation, regulatory transparency, competition policy, and procurement.

2. To maximize U.S. economic gains, the USJTA should prioritize innovative areas with the greatest growth potential – especially life sciences, digital trade, and services.
3. The USJTA should emphasize cooperative, bilateral alignment in setting high standards that will support U.S.-Japan leadership and longer-term interests and co-operation in the Indo-Pacific region.
4. The USJTA should reinforce and build on ongoing domestic reforms and trends in Japan that ensure the continued strength of a key strategic partner and major global market for U.S. companies.

Delegates also stressed the need for continual dialogue between both governments, as well as with each country's private sector, to ensure that the agreement is focused on these priorities and successful in achieving its objectives to increase trade and investment for the mutual benefit of both economies.

The ACCJ delegation was led by ACCJ President Peter Jennings, ACCJ Chairman Christopher LaFleur, ACCJ Vice President Amy Jackson and ACCJ Executive Director Laura Younger. Delegates met with senior officials from key U.S. government agencies, including the Office of the Vice President, the National Security Council, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Department of Commerce, the Department of State, and the Department of the Treasury, as well as nearly two dozen Congressional leaders, over the four-day visit.

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About ACCJ

The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) was established in 1948 by representatives of 40 American companies and has grown into one of the most influential business organizations in Japan. Consisting mainly of executives from American companies, currently the ACCJ has members representing over 1,000 companies with offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. Working closely with the governments of the United States and Japan, business organizations, and others, the ACCJ promotes activities that help achieve its mission of further developing commerce between the United States and Japan, promoting the interests of U.S. companies and members, and improving the international business environment in Japan. The ACCJ's more than 60 committees represent a variety of industries and make policy recommendations through advocacy tools such as viewpoints, public comments and white papers. The ACCJ holds approximately 500 events and seminars a year, many of which focus on government policy and economic trends. The ACCJ is also committed to its responsibilities in the community, promoting charitable events and CSR activities.

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