

# NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, INC.

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BY:.....

Deborah A. Garza, Chair  
Jonathan R. Yarowsky, Vice Chair  
Antitrust Modernization Commission  
1120 G Street, N.W. #810  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Commissioners Garza and Yarowsky:

The NFTC is writing to you to express our members' concerns about the Antitrust Modernization Commission's study of the Webb-Pomerene Export Act and the Export Trading Company Act, as outlined in the *Federal Register* notice of May 19, 2005. The NFTC supports the Webb-Pomerene and ETC Acts, and advises the Commission *not* to recommend any limitation of these laws.

The National Foreign Trade Council is the premier business organization advocating a rules-based world economy. Founded in 1914 by a group of American companies that supported an open world trading system, the NFTC and its affiliates now serve some 300 member companies. Our mission is to advance global commerce. As such, the NFTC has long been a supporter of joint export trade safe harbors in U.S. antitrust law.

In the global marketplace, the competition for market share and export sales is fierce. It often takes a long time and a lot of resources to win business overseas. The Webb-Pomerene Act and ETC Act are vital tools for the U.S. Government to provide export promotion support. These laws allow U.S. companies, particularly small businesses, to be more competitive overseas and help to increase U.S. exports of goods and services, without harming U.S. consumers. Governments of our foreign competitors use similar measures to promote their exports. The U.S. Government should not be reluctant to embrace joint export trade as the key to a stronger U.S. economy.

The benefits provided by the Webb-Pomerene and ETC Acts argue for their continuation under U.S. law. The NFTC urges the Commission to carefully consider the ramifications to U.S. business of any limitation of these joint export trade provisions.

Sincerely,

William A. Reinsch  
President