



May 11, 2011

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

We write to you today in support of two issues—the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)—that are critical to Colorado’s efforts in economic development, innovation and job creation.

First, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce would like to recognize the South Korean Ambassador Han Duk-soo’s recent visit to Colorado to further advance the acceptance and understanding of the KORUS. The intimate dialogue between the business community and the Ambassador was invaluable and further reinforces our support for its passage.

According to the U.S.-Korea Business Council, full implementation of the KORUS could generate nearly 280,000 new jobs, including 6,247 jobs in Colorado. Further, between 2006 and 2010, Colorado exported \$920 million in goods to Korea. Currently, nearly 71,000 Colorado jobs are supported by goods exports – 3.6 percent of the state’s private industry.

We also want to note our support of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which promotes economic growth and competitiveness and fosters innovation and competition between brands, which benefits consumers and creates high-paying jobs. However, we have concerns with the current draft. The Chamber wants to ensure that the TPP protects intellectual property (IP) to the same degree provided in KORUS.

The Chamber wants to ensure that the federal government aggressively presses for the strongest substantive IP and enforcement provisions in the TPP, building on the world-class provisions of the KORUS and U.S. law. These provisions help create a level playing field outside the United States for industries dependent on IP protection for market access. With that in mind, the TPP IP provisions must be clear, specific and enforceable.

The U.S. Business Coalition for TPP counts among its members the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Disney and Microsoft. The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce is in concert with this coalition, and we look forward to continued dialogue around this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly J. Brough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly J. Brough
President and CEO