

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, commends your efforts to successfully complete the conference report to accompany H.R. 4435, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015." The Chamber believes the measure would serve to enhance the ability of our defense industrial base to support U.S. national security interests while remaining competitive at home and abroad.

As you conclude your informal negotiations, the Chamber respectfully requests that you consider including S. 339, the "Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2013," in your conference deliberations. S. 339 would strike the proper balance between environmental stewardship and economic growth.

The U.S. Geological Survey states the U.S. now relies on foreign sources to provide 35 percent of the copper we consume. S. 339 would allow for the production of more than one billion pounds of copper per year for at least 40 years. This legislation would provide up to 25 percent of the annual U.S. demand for copper, which is critical to U.S. competitiveness and economic security.

The Chamber regards this authorization measure as necessary for industry and the Department of Defense alike and, accordingly, urges all Members of the House and Senate to support the expeditious passage of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4435.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten