



August 20, 2018

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
US Department of State
Harry S. Truman Building
2201 C Street Northwest
Room 7226
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

Recognizing your strong commitment to the vitality of the US economy, we write to urge you to swiftly advance a qualified candidate to serve as the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment at the US State Department (Under Secretary).

The State Department plays a vital role in advocating for US economic interests abroad and American companies depend on its leadership to help them compete and succeed overseas. As the global economy becomes increasingly fluid and complex, the Department's economic advocacy is essential to ensuring American businesses continue to prosper and create jobs. The success of this advocacy depends on the leadership of a senior, respected Under Secretary.

We urge you to focus on the Department's economic mission through the appointment of the Under Secretary, who, as you know, promotes economic growth by serving as the department's senior economic official and leading the department's work to formulate and enforce international policies related to agriculture, economic growth, energy, the environment, and science and technology. Through your distinguished leadership, US companies look to the Under Secretary to advocate open markets and fair trade policies and negotiate international agreements with economic impact.

Additionally, the Under Secretary importantly serves as Ombudsperson to the US-EU Privacy Shield Framework (Privacy Shield). As you are aware, Privacy Shield is indispensable to many US companies, the US economy, and the US-EU economic relationship. While the duties of the Ombudsperson are currently being carried out, having a senior political appointee in the role is important.

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment, we strongly believe the appointment and confirmation of the Under Secretary will advance the economic role of the state department and enhance the interests of the US business community in foreign markets.

We look forward to working with you to help ensure the appointee's swift confirmation.

Yours sincerely,

ACT | The App Association

BSA | The Software Alliance

Coalition of Services Industries

Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)

Engine

Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

Interactive Advertising Bureau (IAB)

Internet Association (IA)

National Retail Federation (NRF)

Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)

US Chamber of Commerce

US Council for International Business (USCIB)

Cc:

John R. Bolton, National Security Advisor, National Security Council

Lawrence A. Kudlow, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director, NEC

Jeff T.H. Pon, Director, Office of Personnel Management