LES AUCOIN

1st District, Oregon



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

June 10, 1980

Dear Colleague:

Last week, we introduced the National Export Policy Act of 1980 (H.R. 7479) and are writing to invite your co-sponsorship.

This major legislation, a companion bill to one introduced in the Senate by 28 members of the Senate Export Caucus, is designed to establish an aggressive national export policy and promote U.S. exports.

This Congress has acted on a number of trade measures, but our approach has been piecemeal. The National Export Policy Act is a major step toward a strong, cohesive export policy that touches all aspects of American export efforts.

The legislation strengthens the U.S. Export-Import Bank, reduces government disincentives to trade, expands export opportunities for agricultural commodities and provides tax incentives to exports.

The need for this legislation is readily apparent:

- The U.S. share of world exports has fallen from 32 percent in 1947 to around 12 percent in 1979, and the decline continues.
- We continue to run a trade deficit, last year in excess of \$25 billion.
- U.S. export growth has been negligible since 1974. In real terms, U.S. exports in 1977 were only 1 percent greater than in 1974.

Meeting this challenge begins with fundamental changes in our export practices and the laws that govern them. It begins with a new national export policy that capitalizes on our traditional economic strength and taps the innovative and creative resources of the American business community.

It is designed to enlist maximum cooperation among government, industry and labor toward a common national economic objective. If we are ever to regain our preeminence as an economic leader in the international marketplace, building a cohesive export policy and achieving this common economic goal are vital.

The fundamental changes now proposed in the National Export Policy Act promise significant gains for the United States. A recent Georgetown University study showed that a \$15 billion growth in manufactured exports can be expected to increase U.S consumption by \$20 billion a year and boost employment by 1 million jobs. The U.S. gross national product should increase by around \$37 billion annually with a gain of \$4 billion in private investment.

Hearings in the Senate have already been scheduled and we anticipate hearings in the House on this legislation soon. We urge you to join us in support of this comprehensive trade policy legislation.

A summary of the bill and a list of current co-sponsors is attached. If you would like to co-sponsor the National Export Policy Act of 1980, or if you have questions, please contact Michael Call at extension 50855.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

BILL FRENZEL Member of Congress

Member of Congress

LARENCE J. BROWN

Member of Congress

BILL ALEXANDER

Member of Congress

SAM GIBBONS

LES Aucoin

Member of Congress