Nov. 28, 2016

The Honorable Trent Franks

2435 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Franks,

A delegation of Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce business leaders recently visited the Capitol to hear insights from Arizona’s elected officials on the presidential election, the new political landscape in Washington and what can be accomplished during the upcoming session.

Although your busy schedule didn’t allow you to meet with our delegation on this trip, as Arizona business leaders and advocates, we appreciate your leadership on the below issues vital to the growth and overall success of our economy.

We look forward to opportunities to provide the new administration and Congress support in pushing forward policies that foster growth and repealing those that stifle Arizona’s economy.

Our delegation respectfully submits the following policy recommendations for your consideration.

* **Trade:** U.S. bi- and multi-lateral trade agreements, especially NAFTA, are of substantial importance to Arizona’s business community. We request that any renegotiation of NAFTA considers that Mexico is our #1 trading partner, with $41.6 billion worth of goods in two-way trade processed by Arizona’s six ports of entry in 2014. These figures are projected to rise in the coming years as Mexico’s middle class grows. The country’s economy is projected to grow to the seventh largest by 2050.
* **Regulatory Reform:** Regulations mandated by Obama appointee-led agencies, such as those involving labor regulations, overtime and the environment are stifling to the business community and economic growth. We request that our delegation takes a lead role in vetting and repealing many of these ill-conceived rules handed down by unelected bureaucrats. We also encourage the delegation to take an active role to influence appointees to boards such as the NLRB and the position of solicitor in the U.S. Department of Labor to ensure that these appointees are as pro-business as possible.
* **Border Management:** We also encourage the delegation to impress upon the new administration that proper U.S. border management involves both keeping criminals out while clearing the path for commerce and workers to come in. Achieving this involves aligning the legal immigration system with the country’s economic needs, such as a guest worker program. Immigrant labor, when properly vetted and background checked, supports and helps grow our economy. Immigrant labor contributes to payroll and Social Security taxes and is essential to the economic vitality of border states.
* **Debt/Deficit:** Address the U.S. debt and entitlement spending problem as soon as possible. Entitlement spending currently accounts for nearly 70 percent of the federal budget and is projected to grow to a truly alarming 92 percent in 10 years and threatens the long-term sustainability and vitality of the American economy. The future of the country we leave our children depends on taking action on this titanic issue.

We sincerely thank you for your assistance on these objectives and encourage you to contact any of us to further discuss these issues. We pledge our full support to helping you achieve these goals and look forward to getting them across the finish line.

Sincerely,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Todd Sanders**President & CEO**Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce*Todd Elec. Sig..jpg | *Mike Huckins**Vice President, Public Affairs**Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce*Mike Elec. Sig..jpg |
| *Jaime A. Molera**Partner**Molera Alvarez**GPCC Public Affairs Chairman*Jaime Elec. Sig..jpg | *Daniel Froetscher**Senior Vice President, Transmission, Distribution & Customers, APS**GPCC Chairman of the Board*Daniel Elec. Sig.1.jpg |