

Chamber aims to protect trading partnership with U.S.



SARAH SACHELI, WINDSOR STAR

[More from Sarah Sacheli, Windsor Star \(HTTP://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/SARAH-SACHELI-WINDSOR-STAR\)](http://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/SARAH-SACHELI-WINDSOR-STAR)

Published on: January 19, 2017 | Last Updated: January 19, 2017 12:01 AM EST



International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland speaks with the media in the foyer of the House of Commons following Question Period on Oct. 26, 2016 in Ottawa. *ADRIAN WYLD / THE CANADIAN PRESS*

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce has written a letter to Canada’s Minister of Trade emphasizing the

importance of the country's relationship with the United States.

The letter, addressed to Minister Chrystia Freeland, is “a key step in reinforcing the importance of our two-way trading relationship,” said Matt Marchand, president of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce.

During the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign, president-elect Donald Trump made protectionist overtures when speaking about international trade. His statements on the campaign trail worried Canadian businesses that sell their products in the United States.

“A strong Canada-U.S. trading relationship is essential to our shared economic prosperity,” Marchand said.

The United States is Canada's largest trading partner. Canada is the top destination for exports for 35 American states. Michigan and Ontario have an automotive agreement to support growth and innovation in the industry.

Trade to the United States is a top economic driver for both the automotive and agricultural industry in Windsor-Essex, Marchand said.

Marchand said the letter to the minister is a way for the business community in Ontario to affirm its commitment to continued and strengthened cross-border relations.

ssacheli@postmedia.com (mailto:ssacheli@postmedia.com)

[Twitter.com/WinStarSacheli](http://www.Twitter.com/WinStarSacheli) (http://www.Twitter.com/WinStarSacheli)

Windsor Flyers

