

## **Buy American Deal Step Forward, Fight Must Go On - CME**

**OTTAWA** - Today's announcement that the Canadian government and the provinces have concluded an agreement with the US administration to improve access to US procurement markets for Canadian manufacturers and exporters is positive, but the fight against Buy American restrictions must go on, according to Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME).

"This is an important agreement. It doesn't solve all the problems Canadian companies are experiencing with Buy American and must not end our efforts to fight restrictions in our major export market," says Jayson Myers, CME's President & CEO. "But, this agreement is an important step in the right direction and puts Canada in a stronger position to fight counterproductive protectionist policies in the future."

The agreement immediately grants Canadian exporters access to procurement opportunities in the 37 US states covered under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Government Procurement. Moreover, it exempts Canadian companies from Buy American restrictions for funds remaining in seven programs under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This sets an important precedent for Canada that recognizes the integrated nature of our two economies.

Canada's largest and most influential trade and industry association notes however that the fight against Buy American measures must continue.

"We urge both Canadian governments to continue discussions to negotiate a broader procurement agreement that strengthens our economic relationship, recognizes the integrated nature of our economies, and guarantees access to procurement markets on both sides of the border," adds Myers. "CME will continue to monitor the situation closely from our Washington, DC office and support the government in negotiations going forward."

Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) is Canada's leading trade and industry association and the voice of manufacturing and global business in Canada.

Manufacturing solutions for Canadian companies since 1871, the association represents more than 10,000 leading companies nationwide. More than 85% of CME's members are small and medium-sized enterprises. As Canada's leading business network, CME, through various initiatives including icosmo.ca and the establishment of the Canadian Manufacturing Coalition, touches more than 100,000 companies from coast to coast, engaged in manufacturing, global business and service-related industries.

CME's membership network accounts for an estimated 82% of total manufacturing production and 90% of Canada's exports.

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