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## **The National Center for APEC Applauds the Nomination of Michael Froman as U.S. Trade Representative and Penny Pritzker as Secretary of Commerce**

Seattle, WA – The National Center for APEC applauds President Obama’s nomination of Michael Froman as U.S. Trade Representative and Penny Pritzker as Secretary of Commerce.

“We are encouraged by the nomination of Michael Froman, who has been a stalwart voice for trade within the Obama administration,” noted National Center for APEC President Monica Hardy Whaley. “His leadership during the U.S. Chairmanship of APEC in 2011 reaffirmed and strengthened the United States’ economic engagement with the Asia-Pacific region at a critical juncture, and refocused APEC toward a goal of an integrated regional economy that produces jobs, growth, and prosperity for all of its members.”

Outgoing USTR Ron Kirk has been instrumental in implementing important initiatives including free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama. Mr. Froman’s nomination comes at a particularly crucial time as Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations enter the final stages, and the National Center is confident that Mr. Froman will continue to build on this strong Asia-Pacific trade agenda.

The National Center also applauds the nomination of Penny Pritzker as Secretary of Commerce. Her comprehensive global business background will be instrumental in supporting the Department of Commerce’s diverse economic mandate of promoting U.S. industry, driving economic investment, and contributing to broader U.S. trade objectives. The Commerce Department is an important partner in APEC, especially in APEC’s work broadening opportunities for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The National Center for APEC urges the Senate to confirm Mr. Froman and Ms. Pritzker’s nominations as soon as possible and looks forward to working with USTR on top trade priorities, such as the TPP, as well as APEC’s trade and investment agenda.

### **About the National Center for APEC**

The National Center for APEC is an organization supported by U.S. companies that generates and supports U.S. private and public sector engagement in the APEC process. From its offices in Seattle, the National Center serves as the secretariat for the three U.S. ABAC representatives, works with U.S. companies to identify opportunities to advance U.S. priority issues within the APEC process and advocates for U.S. interests with business counterparts in the Asia-Pacific region.

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