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***U.S. Chamber of Commerce Study Confirms Severe Economic Impact on U.S. Firms and Workers; More Jobs Will Be Lost Without Resolution***

September 15, 2009/Washington, DC: More than 150 U.S. manufacturers, companies and agricultural interests today noted the release of a study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that quantifies the economic damage U.S. companies and workers are suffering as a result of the U.S. government failing to implement a cross-border trucking program with Mexico.

The U.S Chamber of Commerce study released earlier today notes that Mexican tariffs, which have only been in place for six months, are having a devastating impact on U.S. exports and causing Americans to lose their jobs as a direct result. The study concluded that the U.S. failure to implement NAFTA's cross-border trucking provisions has resulted the loss of 25,000 U.S. jobs, \$2.2 billion in higher costs for U.S. families and companies and another \$2.6 billion in lost U.S. exports. "Every single job lost is one job too many and the longer the tariffs remain in place, more jobs will be put in jeopardy," said Alliance spokesman, Steve Mulder. "I thought Congress and the Administration were focused on creating jobs not losing them. This study unfortunately confirms what we already knew – that U.S. workers are taking it on the chin and straight to the unemployment line as a result of inaction by Congress and the Administration," added Mulder

In spite of findings by the Department of Transportation's Inspector General that Mexican trucks and drivers were meeting U.S. safety standards, political claims of safety concerns prompted the Congress in March of this year to effectively eliminate a cross-border trucking safety demonstration project run by DOT. That action put the United States in violation of the North American Free Trade Agreement. It also prompted the Government of Mexico to announce retaliatory tariffs on about \$2.4 billion of U.S. manufactured and agricultural exports to Mexico. Mexico's actions were deemed permissible by an international panel of trade experts, including representatives from the United States.

"This study clearly demonstrates the direct, negative impact the tariffs are having on U.S. workers and we strongly urge the Congress and Obama Administration to immediately resolve the cross-border trucking dispute, so that the United States can fulfill its obligations and so that U.S. companies and workers can get out from under these devastating tariffs and back to work," Mulder added.

**ABOUT THE ALLIANCE**

The Alliance to Keep US Jobs is a coalition of 150 U.S. companies and associations that are concerned about the adverse impact to the U.S. economy stemming from a failure to resolve the longstanding trucking dispute. Members of the Alliance represent many thousands of U.S. workers that are employed by companies and industries that are subject to tariffs on their products shipped to Mexico.

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