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Secretary Carlos Gutierrez

Office of the Secretary

Room 5516

U.S. Department of Commerce

14th and Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Maxime Bernier

Minister of Industry

5th Floor, West Tower

C.D. Howe Building

235 Queen Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5

March 24, 2006

Re: Nominations for the SPP North American Competitiveness Council

Dear Secretary Gutierrez and Minister Bernier:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request official involvement in the North American Competitiveness Council. Specifically, we would like to nominate the following US and Canadian companies: EDS of Plano, Texas; Campbell Soup Company of Camden, New Jersey; Royal Bank of Canada of Toronto, ON; and Canadian National Railway of Montréal, Québec.

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Honorable David Wilkins

All four companies play an important role in the Canada/US partnership and will bring a distinct Canada/US focus and perspective to the table.

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We applaud your efforts to enhance the cross-border relationship by working to achieve the goals of the Security and Prosperity Partnership and by establishing a North American Competitiveness Council. Members of the Canadian American Business Council, who are key leaders in the business community, look forward to working closely with all three governments as this process moves forward.

The CABC is the premier voice of the Canadian American business community. Established in 1987, the Council is a non-profit, issues-oriented organization dedicated to elevating the private sector perspective on issues that affect our two nations. Since 2001, the Council has greatly expanded its unique role as the only truly bilateral Canada-U.S. policy forum dedicated to the cross-border issues that most affect business. Over time, Americans and Canadians have collaborated, challenged each other, and sometimes disagreed on the best policy responses to the crises of our time. Throughout, the Council has provided the Canada-U.S. business community a window into the bilateral dialogue at the very highest

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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levels and, on the issues of deepest concern to our members, played a direct role in helping to make sound policy.

The Canadian American Business Council recognizes the breadth and depth of priorities set forth by the Security and Prosperity Partnership. We also recognize the need to prioritize quickly so that the SPP can achieve success on key issues that affect the Canada/US partnership. We commend your efforts to include the private sector in determining which of the 300 initiatives set out in the SPP are the most important.

Thank you again for your dedication to the success of the Security and Prosperity Partnership. The Canadian American Business Council looks forward to achieving great things throughout North America. We are poised to help shape the priorities of the SPP in anyway we can. If you have any questions about the companies nominated and/or would like to discuss them further please contact us at 202.496.7430.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Randolph V. Dove
Chairman
Canadian American Business Council



Maryscott Greenwood
Executive Director
Canadian American Business Council