



MEMORANDUM

To: GuidePost Clients
From: GuidePost Strategies
RE: ACSCC October Meeting
Date: October 12, 2022

OVERVIEW

On Wednesday, October 12, the **International Trade Administration’s (ITA) Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness (ACSCC)** held a virtual meeting that covered various supply chain challenges and how the Department of Commerce, in particular, is responding to such challenges. This readout outlines highlights from the meeting, which featured remarks from Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry & Analysis **Grant Harris**, Secretary of Commerce **Gina Raimondo**, National Economic Council Director **Brian Deese**, and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets **Arun Venkataraman**.

ACSCC will likely meet next in early February 2023 and hold three 2023 meetings.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Secretary Raimondo** noted that on the issue of **workforce development**, she and Labor Secretary Marty Walsh are in talks about the ideas that ACSCC brought forth. In terms of concrete work that the Department of Commerce has done on workforce, Secretary Raimondo discussed the Department’s selection of 32 awardees for industry-led workforce training initiatives. These recipients received a combined total of a half a billion dollars to execute their initiatives.
- On the **Inflation Reduction Act**, Secretary Raimondo discussed the law’s “pretty aggressive Made in America requirements.” She noted that “this supply chain in North America doesn’t exist,” and “we need a really fulsome plan to develop this supply chain here in the United States.”
- On **critical minerals**, Secretary Raimondo urged that because China “corners the market on critical minerals” required for EVs, “we have to get really serious about sourcing them domestically or from our allies,” and while this initiative would mostly be led by the Department of Energy, it would also be executed in partnership with the private sector. **Director Deese** largely echoed the Secretary’s remarks on the critical minerals issue.
- On **semiconductors**, Secretary Raimondo asserted that while the supply chain issues for *advanced* semiconductors have mostly been resolved, the issues surrounding the supply chain for legacy semiconductor chips used for medical devices and combustion vehicles are still present.
- Shifting specifically to **export programs and initiatives** within the Department of Commerce and ITA, **Assistant Secretary Harris** highlighted the **Market Development Cooperator Program**. The program’s projects generate over \$300 in exports for only \$1 of funding, and

Commerce is working with partners from various states seeking industry footholds or seeking to expand their footprint in export markets. Assistant Secretary Harris also referenced Commerce's **Strategic Partnership Program**.

- Assistant Secretary Harris discussed ITA's **upcoming trade mission to Asia**, where stops will be made in Indonesia, Singapore, and Japan. A delegation of small to medium sized businesses will partake in the trip.
- Assistant Secretary Harris also announced that Commerce's **national export strategy** will be released in the coming months, and will address core Biden Administration priorities, including climate change, clean tech, and small and underserved business support.
- On addressing China's role in global supply chains, **Assistant Secretary Venkataraman** noted that Commerce will work through the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)** to support the ultimate goal of building resilient supply chains. Assistant Secretary Harris referenced the **Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act** and the need to undertake supply chain monitoring.
 - In doing so, Commerce plans to work across the government and with private sector partners "to get more [supply chain monitoring] information out there."
 - Assistant Secretary Harris added that "forced labor is anathema to U.S. values and creates an artificial advantage for companies that rely on it."