



**CANADIAN FOUNDRY ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DES FONDERIES CANADIENNES**

May 28, 2009

To Whom It May Concern

Re: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The Canadian Foundry Association supports Free Trade and opposes the protectionist legislation on state and local procurement markets in the United States, as a result of Buy American provisions contained in recent US legislation. This legislation will have an impact on Canadian foundries and all of manufacturing.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which became law in February requires all iron, steel, and manufactured goods procured in public works funded under the Act to be made in the United States. We are now seeing similar restrictions appear in other bills before the US Congress.

Canadian manufacturers of steel and other construction materials, water and wastewater treatment technologies, heating and ventilation systems, energy technologies, and medical devices are currently being affected by Buy American restrictions.

There is a growing backlash within Canada. A resolution will be considered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on June 6 that would keep municipal infrastructure markets in Canada open to suppliers from other countries only if reciprocal access is granted to Canadian exporters.

Jayson Myers, President, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters says that “protective market restrictions are not the solution to economic problems in either Canada or the United States. Damage will be done on both sides of the border if discriminatory procurement restrictions continue to be enacted.”

“We believe that the Canadian Government can and should propose a solution to the US Administration that would safeguard jobs in both countries. One possible solution would be a commitment on the part of both federal governments not to impose restrictive procurement conditions on the way that federal funds are spent by sub-national authorities. However, it is clear, and in our view desirable, that there also be a credible commitment on the table to negotiate a more open procurement agreement on the part of Provincial/State and local governments”.

It is also the current view of many manufacturers that fighting back and restricting Canadian markets is the only message that will help the Canadian Government and US municipalities and manufacturers negotiate a solution to the Buy American problem.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Wannamaker', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Brad Wannamaker
President