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Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA-01) named 2022 CSI Congressional Services and Digital Champion

Washington, D.C. (October 13, 2022) — *The Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) today issued the following statement:*

CSI Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (D-WA-01) was named the Coalition of Services Industries' (CSI) 2022 Congressional Services and Digital Trade Champion at the CSI Global Services Summit this week. Each year the award is given to a member of Congress that has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication to cultivating the U.S. services and digital sectors and their contribution to middle-class job creation, inclusive growth, and opportunity for U.S. workers and their families.

Said Christine Bliss, "We are delighted to present this year's Award to Representative Suzan DelBene in recognition of her outstanding leadership and deep expertise on services and digital trade issues, for which she is widely recognized. Ms. DelBene is an important voice in Congress on digitally enabled services trade, and consistently looks out for the interest of U.S. workers, small businesses, and their communities—which disproportionately enjoy the benefits of services and digital trade in the form of increased jobs with higher wages, more export opportunities, and greater resilience in the face of economic headwinds."

In remarks at the CSI Summit, Rep. DelBene pointed out the economy-wide benefits of services trade, pointing out that "60 percent of jobs created through digital trade are in industries like agriculture, manufacturing, and retail. "Digital trade is most important for small and mid-sized businesses that want to reach new customers overseas through e-commerce."

U.S. services, many of which are digitally delivered, are the most competitive in the world. From media and entertainment, logistics, telecommunications, ICT to financial services and electronic payments services, these sectors are the lifeblood of the American economy and rely on access to foreign markets to innovate, compete, and grow. That is why, according to DelBene, "The U.S. must work with like-minded democracies, particularly in Europe and the Indo-Pacific, to be [digital] rule-makers, not rule-takers, in this space. "We must negotiate strong digital trade commitments and unite around common standards to ensure principles of democracy, freedom of speech, human rights, privacy, and a free and open internet are at the core of digital governance." She continued, "We must also continue to oppose efforts to impose tariff and non-tariff digital and services trade barriers."

The Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) has represented the interests of the dynamic American services sector since 1982, promoting greater awareness of the role of services in the U.S. economy and shaping policies to facilitate the growth of services trade. Our members include companies that provide services both domestically and internationally, including information and communication technology services, financial services, express delivery and logistics, media and entertainment, distribution, retail and professional services.