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CSI Statement on 2023 Trade Policy Agenda

Washington, D.C. (March 7, 2022) — *The Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) today issued the following statement:*

“While the Administration’s recently released 2023 Trade Policy Agenda highlights some important priorities that the United States is pursuing, CSI urges the Administration to also prioritize combatting protectionist services and digital trade barriers around the world that hurt U.S. workers and businesses. The U.S. should set high-standard disciplines in digital trade that will address these barriers, promoting greater economic growth and opportunities for American workers and fostering greater inclusion and sustainability.

“The 2023 agenda states that the United States is committed to ‘upholding a fair and open global trading system’ and to ‘unlocking new opportunities for American workers and their families.’ CSI fully supports these objectives, since it is vital that the US re-assert its leadership on trade regionally and multilaterally.

“The trade agenda highlights a number of priorities that we agree are important to incorporate in trade agreements, including labor protections, climate and sustainability, supply chain resilience, and agriculture. What the agenda does not prioritize are the critically important and complementary areas of services and digital trade. We believe this is a missed opportunity, since services and digital trade facilitate and are embedded in every sector of the economy. For this reason, dismantling trade barriers in these areas stands to help US exports of manufactured goods, as well as agriculture. Services and digital trade are also key to achieving sustainability goals, addressing climate change, facilitating the growth of small business, and promoting greater inclusion.

“As the agenda notes, the US is the largest exporter of services in the world, with services accounting for half the value of overall American exports on a value-added basis. On a global basis, trade in services – especially digitally delivered services -- is a vital source of American competitive advantage. And at home, digitally enabled services and technologies are key to advanced manufacturing, improved agriculture production, decarbonization, and medical research. They also enable broader availability of education, healthcare, financing, payments and banking, especially for underserved communities.

“To create better opportunities for American workers and their families, services and digital trade need to be included as a priority in the US trade agenda. This is especially important in a period of growing geopolitical competition and efforts by our trading partners to expand their networks of trade agreements and market access commitments, including on services and digital trade. We strongly encourage the administration to broaden its efforts and pursue trade disciplines that will bolster US economic growth and leadership in services and digital trade.”

CSI is the leading U.S. industry association devoted to promoting the trade policy priorities of the U.S. services sector on services and digital issues. Our members include companies that provide financial services, information and

communication technology services, telecom services, express delivery and logistics, media and entertainment, distribution, and professional services to all sectors of the economy, including manufacturing and agriculture. CSI members include manufacturers of consumer electronics, telecommunications equipment and health and nutrition products. Our members operate in all 50 states and in nearly 200 countries, representing both large and small firms. CSI also works with counterpart organizations around the globe as co-chair of the Global Services Coalition and the Asia Pacific Services Coalition.