



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

Response to UK-US Trade Deal – March 2017

Thank you for contacting me about UK trade policy and the United States.

I am delighted that the Government is committed to a free trade agenda and will look at a variety of options as it develops its future trade policy. It will be important that the views of businesses large and small and from a broad range of sectors continue to be taken into account as part of this process.

The ambition must be for a mutually beneficial UK-US bilateral trade deal once we have left the EU. The United States is our single largest export market, accounting for £100 billion worth of UK exports, at a recent growth rate of 19 per cent. As an important partner and ally, I am reassured that the UK will look to get the right deal with the US after the UK leaves the EU, but will remain committed to existing EU trade deals while still a member of the EU. I understand all trade agreements will be looked at in the context of the UK becoming a fairer and more global, outward-facing country. Parliament will, of course, have a role to play in the scrutiny and ratification of our future trade deals.

In the meantime, it will be the Department for International Trade's (DIT) role to implement a trade policy that serves the whole country, which includes our small businesses. I am encouraged that DIT has already established the Great.gov.uk website, designed to engage as many businesses as possible, especially small businesses, to connect them to markets and investors around the world.

I was delighted to attending the event on Wednesday the 1st, where I listened closely to the views raised and reiterated those I have made above.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP