



Ottawa, February 8, 2023

Honorable François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
Member of Parliament for Saint-Maurice—Champlain

Minister,

We have met at a few events, and you have shown great interest in our initiative to encourage Canadian consumers, as well as Canadian businesses and institutions, to buy hardware and building materials made in Canadian manufacturing facilities. However, time is running out and our pan-Canadian organization "Well Made Here/Bien fait ici" still does not have the political and financial support of the federal government.

I am therefore reiterating my call for an exploratory meeting between us, especially since one or two layers have been added to the file since yesterday's State of the Union address by the American President.

Joe Biden mentioned that "too many good-paying jobs have been transferred overseas. Domestic factories have closed," referring of course to dozens of American manufacturers who are resigned to relocating their operations every year.

He goes on to say that "for too many decades, we have been importing products and exporting jobs.

Because it is not a foregone conclusion, he rightly points out that his government is working to alter the situation by ensuring that "the US supply chain originates in the United States", resulting in the creation of some 800,000 new jobs in the US manufacturing sector, where investments of some 300 billion dollars (USD) have reportedly been announced over the past two years.

The US President went further by promising to buy American, in the spirit of the "Buy American Act" passed in 1933 under President Herbert Hoover. "For too long, previous administrations have found ways around the problem. Not anymore."

Focusing specifically on our industry, "Tonight, I am announcing new standards to require that all building materials used in federal infrastructure projects be made in the United States. Lumber, glass, drywall, and fiber optic cable," Biden hammered. "And under my watch," he added, "the nation's roads, bridges, and highways will be made with American products."

Minister, more than 150 manufacturers have joined our new program despite the pandemic. Major players in distribution such as RONA, Home Hardware, and many others are also acting as our partners. Ultimately, we must all work together not to rebuke the American offensive, and certainly not in vengeful retaliation, but rather to develop our own plan of action, one that is both respectful of the MEAC and favourable to the interests of Canadian citizens and businesses.

For additional details: <https://www.ici-here.ca/about/>

I am therefore awaiting a proposed date and location so that we can examine the possibility of collaboration.

Respectfully yours,



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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister

The Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Public Services and Procurement

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance