

United States International Trade Commission

A Centennial History of the USITC



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A Centennial History of the United States International Trade Commission

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Most contributors were not currently Commissioners or part of agency staff at the time of writing. As such, they are unlikely to have had full access to information on the capabilities and internal deliberations of the agency.

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I rise today to commemorate the centennial of the creation of the United States International Trade Commission and to congratulate the Commission and its exceptional staff on their distinguished service. . . .

Therefore I ask my colleagues to join me in offering my sincerest thanks to the U.S. International Trade Commission and its staff for their commendable work over the last one hundred years. We look forward to continuing to rely on the professionalism, objectivity, and neutrality of this vitally important agency in providing us with independent and sound advice, which allows us to effectively carry out our Constitutional duties in establishing U.S. trade policy.

Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX), Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives, 162 Cong. Rec. E1187 (daily ed. September 6, 2016).

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the committee that oversees the Commission, I want to congratulate the Commission on this anniversary and the Commission's staff who do important work I look forward to working with the Commission, as it begins its second century of work, to ensure that the analysis of international trade addresses 21st century economic issues.

Ranking Minority Member Sander M. Levin (D-MI), Committee on Ways and Means, 162 Cong. Rec. E1228 (daily ed. September 8, 2016).

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today the U.S. International Trade Commission, or the USITC, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. That makes today an appropriate day for us to acknowledge the distinguished service that this independent and nonpartisan Federal agency has provided, and continues to provide in the field of international trade.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I concur with **Senator HATCH** and also congratulate the USITC on its centennial and commend the agency for its service over the last century.

Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and **Ranking Minority Member Ron Wyden** (D-OR), Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate, 162 Cong. Rec. S5455 (daily ed. September 8, 2016).

When the Commission turned 100, President Obama sent his congratulations, saying “Your tireless efforts support American businesses and workers, and I am confident that your dedication will continue to leave a lasting impact for generations to come.” The Commission has helped 17 Presidents and 50 Congresses on matters such as trade negotiations, intellectual property and safeguard investigations, and enforcement cases.

The Commission's upcoming Centennial History book will be helpful in shedding light on the distinguished history of an agency that has done so much to shape the direction of our country.

Ambassador Michael Froman, United States Trade Representative, 2013–17.

Message from the Chairman

On behalf of my fellow Commissioners, I am proud to present *A Centennial History of the United States International Trade Commission*. Since its creation on September 8, 1916, the Commission provided independent, non-partisan, expert, and objective information to Congress and the Executive Branch to assist in setting tariffs and formulating U.S. trade policies. In the last half century, the Commission's role in investigating and making determinations in disputes regarding unfair imports and unfair trade practices has grown significantly.

Early chapters of this book describe the events leading up to the creation of the agency as the United States Tariff Commission and its early years. Subsequent chapters of the book discuss the evolution of the Commission as an institution. They discuss the steady growth in the mission of the agency as well as how changes in legislation, policy, and practice have affected the agency's programmatic role. Specifically, these chapters document the Commission's evolving role in tariff related affairs, antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings, intellectual property-related proceedings, safeguards investigations, and industry and economic analysis for Congress and executive branch. Other chapters of the book discuss evolving administrative issues about how the Commission has governed, including such issues as the number of Commissioners, the authority of the Chairman, and the history of the agency's headquarters and field offices.

The independent, non-partisan, and objective nature of the Commission is a recurring theme as the book illustrates how the agency has reliably served the American people throughout the one hundred years of its existence.



Rhonda K. Schmidtlein
Chairman

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