

# 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