

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Secretary Penny Pritzker (DOC), Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Representative David Reichert (R-WA) Recognized for their Leadership on International Trade

Washington, D.C. – June 22, 2016 – The Washington International Trade Association (WITA) and the Washington International Trade Foundation (WITF) will celebrate the achievements of 38<sup>th</sup> United States Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Representative David Reichert (R-WA) at the WITA/WITF Annual Awards Dinner, to be held on Thursday, July 14, 2016. All three honorees will be commended for their leadership and accomplishments in trade policy.

Penny Pritzker has served as the 38th U.S. Secretary of Commerce since being sworn in by Vice President Joe Biden on June 26, 2013. WITA is bestowing its Global Leadership Award to Secretary Pritzker in recognition of the tireless work she has done as Secretary of Commerce to provide American businesses and entrepreneurs with the tools they need to grow and hire. Said Ted Austell, Vice President, Executive, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs at Boeing, and President of the Board of the Washington International Trade Foundation: “Secretary Pritzker has done amazing work on behalf of US companies operating across the globe, and we are incredibly grateful for her work, along with her amazing team at Commerce, promoting the interests of American workers and firms through expanded trade.”

WITA is also pleased to bestow its Congressional Leadership Awards to Congressmen Earl Blumenauer, of Oregon, and David Reichert of Washington. Both Mr. Blumenauer and Mr. Reichert serve on the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Trade, which Mr. Reichert Chairs. Steve Lamar, Executive Vice President of the American Apparel and Footwear Association, and President of the Board of the Washington International Trade Association, added this about Blumenauer and Reichert: “Both Congressman Blumenauer and Congressman Reichert have been leaders within their parties in talking about the importance of American leadership in the global economy. They have been willing to stand up for American employers, large and small, that rely on trade to expand their businesses – to the benefit of workers and consumers.”

The Annual WITA/WITF Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2016, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, located in Washington, D.C.

Each year WITA and WITF honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to international trade and trade policy. As the premier Washingtonian trade event of the year, the Annual WITA/WITF Awards Dinner attracts over 500 hundred trade professionals from businesses, law, academia, NGOs, embassies, the Congress and the federal government. It is by far the largest and most important annual event on the trade calendar.

WITA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that provides a neutral forum for the open discussion of international trade issues, and is widely considered Washington’s preeminent trade forum. WITF is the 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports the educational activities of WITA. For more information on either organization or the event, please visit [www.wita.org](http://www.wita.org), email [danez@wita.org](mailto:danez@wita.org), or contact WITA at 202-312-1600.

**Important! MEDIA RULES:** Press are welcome to attend the presentation portion of the event, beginning at approximately 7:45 p.m., and are asked to use the press seating along the back wall of the Atrium Hall. All other portions of the evening are off-the-record. Unfortunately, press will not be fed. **Neither honorees nor presenters will be fielding questions.** Members of the press interested in covering the event should RSVP to [danez@wita.org](mailto:danez@wita.org) and need to follow these guidelines and check in at the event registration desk upon arrival. Thank you for your interest, support, and cooperation.

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