

**THE PRESIDENT'S EXPORT COUNCIL**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20230

October 1, 2003

The President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In July of 2002, you admonished American business that, "in the long run, there's no capitalism without conscience; there is no wealth without character." Demonstrating the truth of that principle is critically important as U.S. companies reach out into the world in our global economy.

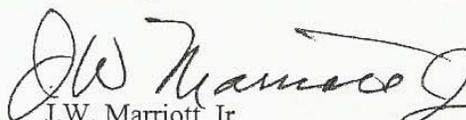
As the premier national advisory committee on international trade, the President's Export Council believes that American companies can play an important role in taking U.S. values to those countries in which we do business and that, in doing so, it will benefit shareholders, employees, customers and communities, as well as stimulate peaceful international relations.

Over the next year, the Council plans to document, in a report to you, the important role that corporate stewardship, as practiced by U.S. companies, has both on the success of companies and the well-being and growth of the countries in which they operate. The report will review successful corporate stewardship initiatives, policies, and philosophies from around the globe. Consistent with the goals of the Doha Development Round, our report will place a specific emphasis on U.S. corporate stewardship activities involving developing countries.

In preparing this report, we hope to assist you in inspiring additional activities by American companies that acknowledge, as Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans has said, that a "company's real value is the contribution it makes to the lives of all its stakeholders – including its community and its nation." In addition, we hope that this report will assist developing nations and others in understanding the important role that American business can play in promoting economic development and alleviating poverty.

We request that you direct the agencies of the U.S. government with expertise in the area of corporate stewardship and international business to support the Council in compiling the necessary data to craft this report. We look forward to its completion and appreciate the opportunity to provide you with what we believe will be valuable insight into the social responsibility efforts of the U.S. business community and the benefits those efforts provide to the nations of the world.

Sincerely,

  
J.W. Marriott, Jr.  
Chairman