GEAR up for Economic Recovery

Why is diversifying critical supply chains included in the GEAR strategy? Why are supply chains important to economic recovery?

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the risks of over-reliance on single suppliers of goods critical to national security, such as medical supplies, rare earth elements, and telecommunications equipment. Without access to international inputs, raw materials, products, and supplies, our businesses and workers will not have the inputs necessary to provide their goods and services nor the protective equipment to do so safely. Ensuring access to resilient, secure, and diversified supply chains in the United States and globally will allow U.S. workers and the private sector to get back to business safely and expedite economic growth following the pandemic.

What is EB doing to ensure Americans have adequate supplies of critical materials like personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical supplies?

Our team in the Office of Multilateral Trade Affairs has undertaken a series of actions to ensure that our heroic frontline medical providers have the supplies they need to combat COVID-19. We have been tracking and resolving foreign country export restrictions so that these supplies can come to the United States from overseas. We have been ensuring that foreign workers can access critical work sites to produce products and inputs needed for U.S. medical supplies. The United States is also increasing the domestic production of needed medical supplies to meet demand at home and abroad.

Looking to the future, what are your goals for supply chains? What are you doing to achieve those goals?

To protect our businesses and overall prosperity, we must diversify global supply chains by prioritizing investment both here at home and in other countries where the rule of law is respected and where institutions are accountable to citizens and consumers, rather than countries with a record of predatory economic policies. We are regularly engaging with our allies and partners to discuss these imperatives and ensure we are working together to address global supply chain challenges.