Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry In the USA, Inc. 미한국상공회의소

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February 19, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Impact of Proposed ESTA Social Media Requirements on U.S.-Korea Business Mobility

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

On behalf of the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the USA (KOCHAM), I am writing to share our formal comments recently submitted to Secretary Kristi Noem (DHS) and Commissioner Rodney S. Scott (CBP) regarding the proposed requirement for ESTA applicants to provide a five-year social media history.

KOCHAM represents companies that have invested tens of billions of dollars and created hundreds of thousands of jobs in the U.S. While we support national security, we are concerned this proposal may hinder economic momentum due to:

Operational Delays: Transforming ESTA into a burdensome process undermines the efficiency essential for urgent business travel and global agility.

Talent Avoidance: Privacy concerns may create a "chilling effect," deterring key engineers and experts from traveling to the U.S. for essential knowledge transfer.

Investment Contraction: This "double regulation" risks discouraging Korean investment. As President Trump noted, it is vital that Korean companies bring experts to train the American workforce on complex products.

We respectfully request your support in ensuring that U.S.-Korea visa cooperation remains streamlined to foster continued investment and technological partnership. We hope the Department of Commerce will advocate for a balanced approach that preserves the integrity of the Visa Waiver Program.

Thank you for your leadership in strengthening the U.S. economy.

Respectfully submitted,

Ho Chan Park

Chairman
Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the USA (KOCHAM)