

**From:** Secretary Penny Pritzker  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2013 9:46 AM  
**To:** Broadcast, DOC  
**Subject:** Open For Business

Dear Team,

It's great to have everyone back! I cannot tell you how good it feels to be able to say this after nearly three weeks of the government shutdown.

Your service and sacrifice are incredibly valued by me and of course by the President. I have enormous respect for every member of our Commerce team. You serve this department and the American people with skill, vigor and passion. Your work supports businesses as they create jobs, expand trade, invest in the U.S. and so much more. And if there's one small silver lining after this very difficult period, it is that the American people now know more clearly how important their government is to them – and the people who carry out this critical work.

As I expressed to you at the start of this shutdown, my mantra is "Mission first, People always." As such, I believe the most important asset of this department – and this government – is our people, which is you. You and your families have been at the top of my mind as we have survived the stresses of these last few weeks, and I am very proud to serve with you.

Thank you for your tireless service to our nation. I am thrilled that we are once again open for business.

Sincerely,  
Penny