

May 11, 2015

The United States Congress  
United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

To the Members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives:

As associations representing every sector of the U.S. manufacturing economy, we urge you to support passage of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, introduced by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Ryan (R-WI), Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR). This new Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation contains long-sought updates to the negotiating objectives to direct U.S. negotiators to address growing challenges to our manufacturer's competitiveness in overseas markets. This TPA legislation also includes new process and transparency provisions to ensure that trade-agreement negotiations proceed with full input from Congress, manufacturers and other stakeholders.

Across the country, trade is working for businesses of all sizes and for the nearly 12 million women and men they employ. Trade agreements negotiated under TPA help manufacturers and workers reach the 95 percent of the world's consumers who live outside our borders. They eliminate barriers and open markets overseas and have empowered industries to compete for a greater share of the \$11.8 trillion global market for manufactured goods.

Renewing this proven partnership between Congress and the President will facilitate the negotiation and approval of trade agreements that eliminate foreign barriers and open new export opportunities for industries and workers in the United States.

Since TPA was last renewed in 2002, U.S. goods exports have more than doubled to a record high of almost \$1.4 trillion in 2014. The United States enjoys a nearly \$55 billion manufacturing trade surplus with its 20 existing free trade agreement partners. Manufacturing employees in the "most trade-intensive industries" earn 56 percent more than those in manufacturing companies that were less engaged in trade, as found by the Manufacturing Alliance for Productivity and Innovation.

At a time when global growth is slowing, manufacturing industries and their employees need the advantages that trade agreements provide now more than ever to compete successfully abroad. The U.S. market is largely open to the world, with the lowest tariffs on manufactured goods of any G20 country. Yet, these same manufacturers face steep trade barriers abroad. Without TPA, manufacturers in the United States risk being locked out and left behind as other countries negotiate dozens of trade agreements that exclude the United States and our nation's manufacturers.

With so much at stake for American jobs, growth and competitiveness, we urge you to act quickly to pass the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act for manufacturers and workers.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association  
Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, Inc.  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
American Chemistry Council  
American Cleaning Institute  
American Coatings Association  
American Composites Manufacturers Association  
American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL)  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Lighting Association  
American Petroleum Institute (API)  
America's Natural Gas Alliance  
AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology  
Association and Society Management International, Inc.  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)  
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers  
Auto Care Association  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Business Council of Alabama  
Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)  
Corn Refiners Association  
CropLife America  
Electronic Components Industry Association  
Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International  
Global Automakers  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association  
INDA, The Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry  
Industrial Minerals Association – North America  
Industrial Truck Association  
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Wood Products Association  
IPC – Association Connecting Electronics Industries  
Irrigation Association  
Jackson Area Manufacturers Association  
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA)

Lumbermen's Association of Texas & Louisiana  
Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI  
Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA)  
Metal Powder Industries Federation  
Michigan Chemistry Council  
Missouri Association of Manufacturers  
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association  
NAHAD - The Association for Hose & Accessories Distribution  
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)  
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
Non-Ferrous Founders' Society  
Northeast PA Manufacturers & Employers Association  
Northern Arizona Loggers Association  
NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies  
Oregon Women In Timber  
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, Inc.  
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA)  
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association  
SSS Management Corporation  
Steel Manufacturers Association  
Texas Association of Manufacturers  
The Aluminum Association  
The Hardwood Federation  
The Kansas Chamber  
The State Chamber of Oklahoma  
The Vinyl Institute  
Treated Wood Council  
Valley Industrial Association  
Vinyl Building Council  
Western Equipment Dealers Association  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce  
Wisconsin Paper Council