



October 1, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Ryan and Hatch and Ranking Members Levin and Wyden:

The 26 trade associations below urge your support for passing the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (TFTEA) as rapidly as possible. This legislation will simplify and streamline the customs entry process and offer significant benefits for both industry stakeholders and the government. The numerous members of the associations co-signing this letter represent several hundred billion dollars in U.S. business and serve millions of customers who all will benefit significantly from the simplification and streamlining of the customs entry process resulting from the TFTEA.

It is extremely urgent to get these new procedures in place by October 31st in order to facilitate the huge volume of trade that will be moving across the U.S. border in both directions during the peak holiday shipping season. As eCommerce has exploded, the volume of shipments that must be processed expeditiously at the border is growing exponentially, and the 2015 holiday season is predicted to see the highest volumes of such shipments in our nation's history. We have seen in the past few years how these increasing volumes have strained both Government and industry processing capabilities to the breaking point. Without the facilitation measures that TFTEA will provide, the risk of a total breakdown this year increases.

The key TFTEA provisions that could have a measurable impact on the border clearance process this year, if the bill is passed immediately, are as follows:

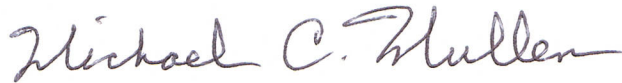
- Increasing the de minimis level to \$800 – will allow millions of additional shipments to receive the streamlined clearance process under the de minimis procedure;
- Eliminating tariffs on U.S. goods returned – the current procedure of collecting tariffs on these goods is a major impediment to U.S. exporters, particularly small and medium companies; and

- Promoting the uniform implementation at each port of entry of the United States of policies and regulations relating to imports under the Centers of Excellence and Expertise – the harmonization across ports resulting from this measure will improve the predictability and reliability of the holiday delivery process

Congress has been debating some form of customs reauthorization, including the above provisions, for six years, and debating the current TFTEA bill for six months. The time to find the necessary compromises to resolve the few remaining issues under discussion and pass this bill is now. We urge you to give passage of TFTEA the priority required to pass the bill and send it to the President by October 31.

To answer any questions or for additional information please contact Mike Mullen at michael.mullen@expressamerica.org or (703) 759-0369.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Mullen
Executive Director
Express Association of America (EAA)

CO-SIGNING ORGANIZATIONS:

Airforwarders Association – AFA
Airlines for America – A4A
American Apparel & Footwear Association – AAFA
American Association of Exporters and Importers – AAIE
American Trucking Associations – ATA
Association for Postal Commerce – PostCom
Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance – CANAMBTA
Cargo Airline Association – CAA
Coalition of Service Industries – CSI
The Computing Technology Industry Association – CompTIA
Express Delivery and Logistics Association – XLA
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association – FASA
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America – FDRA
Grocery Manufacturers Association – GMA
Information Technology Industry Council – ITIC
International Air Transport Association - IATA
National Association of Free Trade Zones – NAFTAZ
National Association of Manufacturers – NAM
National Foreign Trade Council – NFTC
The International Air Cargo Association – TIACA
Toy Industry Association – TIA
Travel Goods Association – TGA

United States Council for International Business – USCIB
U.S. Business Alliance for Customs Modernization – BACM
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

cc: Speaker John Boehner
House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi
House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy
House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid
Members of the Senate Committee on Finance
Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means