

March 14, 2012

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

The undersigned members of the Coalition for U.S.-Russia Trade strongly urge you to support legislation that will graduate Russia from the Jackson-Vanik amendment and establish Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with Russia. The Coalition comprises businesses from across the goods, services and agricultural sectors of the economy. Russia's graduation from Jackson-Vanik and PNTR is the top trade priority on the U.S. business community's legislative agenda this year.

This legislation is crucial in order for U.S. manufacturers, service providers, agricultural producers and their employees to take advantage of the many market opening and transparency commitments that form Russia's accession package to the World Trade Organization (WTO). PNTR also gives the United States a powerful tool by enabling the United States to ensure that Russia abides by those commitments through internationally binding WTO dispute settlement.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974 was enacted with the chief purpose of ending the policy that prevented emigration of Jews from the then-Soviet Union. With respect to Russia, the Jackson-Vanik amendment has successfully accomplished its objective. Russia terminated its exit fees on Jewish emigrants in 1991, and today Russian Jews can freely emigrate. Since 1992, U.S. Presidents of both parties have certified annually that Russia complies with the Jackson-Vanik amendment's provisions, and this has allowed the United States to maintain Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status with Russia. Now is the time for Congress to end this certification process and make this normal trading status permanent.

Since no other WTO member has a law similar to Jackson-Vanik, all of Russia's trading partners except the United States will immediately benefit when Russia joins the WTO, which is expected to happen by mid-summer. If Congress fails to enact PNTR with Russia before then, U.S. industry will be on the sidelines of Russia's market, at a disadvantage for lucrative contracts, and without the full tools provided by a WTO relationship.

Russia is the world's 11th largest economy and is already Europe's largest consumer market. We have seen Russia's growing demand for high quality goods and services. Yet many of Russia's WTO commitments that will greatly improve its business climate, such as its adherence to the rules of the international trading system with respect to intellectual property rights, science- and risk-based regulation for animal and plant health, and liberalizations in key sectors such as services will be out of the United States' reach — unless Congress passes Russia PNTR legislation.

Russia is an important part of U.S. business' global strategy to create and sustain jobs at home by enhancing our long-term competitiveness abroad. Many U.S. companies have developed vibrant, profitable and rapidly-growing business and trade with Russia, with clear strategic benefits to parent companies, exports from, and employment in, the United States. Without PNTR, U.S. companies and their employees will be left behind our competitors in this growing and profitable market.

We strongly urge you to pass the legislation that will enable the U.S. economy to take advantage of Russia's accession to the WTO by supporting legislation to graduate Russia from Jackson-Vanik and enacting PNTR with Russia when it comes up for a vote.

Respectfully,

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ACE Group

AGCO Corporation

Abbott Laboratories

Adams and Reese LLP

Aerolase Corporation

Aerospace Industries Association

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Alcoa, Inc.

Almaz Capital Partners

Altrius Group, LLC

Amway

American Automotive Policy Council (AAPC)
American Chamber of Commerce in Russia
American Chemistry Council (ACC)
American Council of Life Insurers
American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association (AFIA)
American Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Institute for International Steel
American Natural Soda Ash Corporation (ANSAC)
American-Russian Business Council
American Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation
American Soybean Association
Amgen
Argus Limited
Association and Society Management International, Inc.
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association
BP America, Inc.
Baker & McKenzie
Bank of America
Baring Vostok Capital Partners
Berry Moorman PC
The Boeing Company
Brown-Forman Corporation
Burlington International Group
Business Roundtable
Business Software Alliance (BSA)
CRDF Global
California Chamber of Commerce
California Poultry Federation
Cargill, Inc.
Case New Holland Inc.
Caterpillar, Inc.
Celgene
ChemDiv, Inc.
Chevron Corporation
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Citi
Coalition of Service Industries

Coalition for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR)
The Coca-Cola Company
Colliers International
ConocoPhillips Company
Corn Refiners Association
Corning Incorporated
Covidien
Council for U.S.-Russia Relations
Cummins, Inc.
Deere & Company
Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.
The Walt Disney Company
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Inc.
The Dow Chemical Company
DuPont
EcoLab
Economic Alliance Snohomish County
Eli Lilly and Company
Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT)
Emerging Markets Communications LLC
Ernst & Young
Eurasia Partners, LP
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Fluor Corporation
Ford Motor Company
GBCHealth
General Electric Company
General Motors Company
Goldman Sachs & Co.
Greater Houston Partnership
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Guardian Industries Corporation
Herbalife International of America, Inc.
Hermitage Museum Foundation (USA), Inc.
Hormel Foods Corporation
IBM
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Indiana State Poultry Association
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
International Business-Government Counsellors, Inc. (IBC)
International Paper Company

Iowa Turkey Federation
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Johnson & Johnson
Kalorama Partners, LLC
Kraft Foods
Lawson International, Inc.
Lazare Kaplan International Inc.
Limco Logistics, Inc.
Lindsay Corporation
LORD Corporation
Los Alamos Technical Associates
MARS, Incorporated
Mattel, Inc.
Medtronic, Inc.
MetLife
Microsoft Corporation
Mid-Atlantic – Russia Business Council
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
Mississippi Economic Council – The State Chamber of Commerce
Monitor Group
Morgan Stanley
National Association of Manufacturers
The National Barley Growers Association
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Foreign Trade Council
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Turkey Federation
North Carolina Poultry Federation
Ohio Poultry Association
Oracle Corporation
PBN H&K Strategies
PepsiCo, Inc.
Pfizer, Inc.
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
The Poultry Federation
Praxair, Inc.
Priestley International Consulting
Procter & Gamble Company
PwC
QUALCOMM

RDO Equipment Co.
RSR Russia LLC
Russia Innovation Collaborative, LLC
Russian American Foundation, Inc.
Russin & Vecchi LLP
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
Salans
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)
Siguler Guff & Co.
Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
Stephen Bearden H.B. International Marketing Services, Inc.
Sweet Analysis Services, Inc.
TechAmerica
TechNet
Texas Instruments
Texas Turkey Federation
Torrey Pines Investment, LLC
Toy Industry Association
United States Council for International Business (USCIB)
United Technologies Corporation
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Council for International Business (USCIB)
U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
U.S.-Russia Business Council
U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce
U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce of New England
The U.S.A. Dry Peas & Lentil Council
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council (USAPEEC)
Valmont Industries, Inc.
Virginia Poultry Federation
Visa, Inc.
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Washington Council on International Trade
Westney Consulting Group
William T. Robinson, PLLC
Wisconsin Poultry & Egg Industries Association
WorldBusiness Capital, Inc.
Xerox Corporation