

February 5, 2015

Dear Member of Congress,

The undersigned organizations strongly support the introduction and enactment of Trade Promotion Authority legislation as quickly as possible. The people we represent – American farmers, ranchers, food and agriculture companies, retailers and their workers – are heavily dependent on trade for their livelihoods. Their ability to compete in global markets is tied to the ability of the United States to eliminate impediments to international trade.

As a result of trade agreements implemented since 1989, when the U.S. began using bilateral and regional trade agreements to open foreign markets to our goods, U.S. agricultural exports have nearly quadrupled in value and now stand at a record \$152.5 billion (fiscal 2014). During that period, earnings from U.S. agricultural exports as a share of cash receipts to farmers have grown from 22 percent to over 35 percent.

These farm and food exports have a positive multiplier effect throughout the U.S. economy. Every \$1 in U.S. farm exports is estimated to stimulate an additional \$1.27 in business activity. Off-farm activities and services include purchases by farmers of fuel, fertilizer, seed and other inputs as well as post-production processing, packaging, storing, transporting and marketing the products we ship overseas. Exports of \$152.5 billion in fiscal 2014 therefore generated another \$194 billion in economic activity in the U.S., bringing the total benefit to the economy to \$347 billion.

This economic activity creates jobs. Every \$1 billion of U.S. agricultural exports requires the full-time work of approximately 6,600 Americans throughout the economy. Exports in fiscal 2014 therefore supported over 1 million full-time jobs, and more than half of these have been generated in the past 10 years as our exports have more than doubled in value.

Each and every one of the trade agreements that delivered remarkable achievements was made possible by the enactment of trade promotion authority bills. Those bills gave U.S. negotiators the ability, with clear direction and backing from Congress, to extract the best deals possible from other countries.

Without TPA, our negotiating partners would be unwilling to make the toughest concessions, and why should they if they judge that the U.S. will be forced to backtrack on a “final” deal as a result of congressional amendments to the implementing legislation? In short, trade agreements such as those being negotiated with 11 other countries under the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and with the European Union under the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) cannot achieve U.S. goals without TPA.

There are myriad trade deals under negotiation in the Asia-Pacific region, the fastest growing economic region in the world. TPP is not the only agreement under consideration, but it is the most important. In the TPP, the administration is working hard to close a comprehensive, high-standard, 21st century deal that will eliminate barriers to our exports and raise standards within the TPP nations. Should Congress not pass TPA, it will signal to our TPP partners and to the world that we are turning our back on the fastest growing economic region in the world.

TPP can become the most important regional trade negotiation ever undertaken if the result is truly comprehensive. But for TPP to become a reality, Congress needs to pass TPA. We urge you to vote for TPA.

Agribusiness Council of Indiana
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Peanut Council
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
Animal Health Institute
Archer Daniels Midland Co.
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Blue Diamond Growers
Bunge North America
California Cherry Export Association
California Dried Plum Board
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Pear Growers
California Walnut Commission
Campbell Soup Company
Cargill, Incorporated
Commodity Markets Council
Corn Refiners Association

CropLife America
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S., Inc.
Food Marketing Institute
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Juice Products Association
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Fisheries Institute
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
National Turkey Federation
North American Blueberry Council
North American Equipment Dealers Association
North American Meat Institute
Northwest Horticultural Council
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Oregon Potato Commission
Pet Food Institute
Produce Marketing Association
Sunmaid Growers of California
Sunsweet Growers Inc.

Sweetener Users Association
Texas Grain & Feed Association
Tyson Foods, Inc.
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Apple Export Council
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
U.S. livestock Genetics Export, Inc.
U.S. Wheat Associates
United Egg Producers
US Canola Association
US Dry Bean Council
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
USA Rice Federation
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Washington State Potato Commission
Western Growers Association
Wine Institute
WineAmerica