

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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Canola Association  
U.S. Dry Bean Council  
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association  
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.  
U.S. Wheat Associates  
United Egg Producers  
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council  
USA Rice Federation  
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Western Growers Association  
Wine Institute  
WineAmerica