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[Support the Senate Finance Committee's Bipartisan approach to Fast-Track and Trade Adjustment Assistance - October 3, 1997] [loose]

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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 1997

**SUPPORT THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S BIPARTISAN APPROACH
TO FAST-TRACK AND TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE**

Dear Colleague:

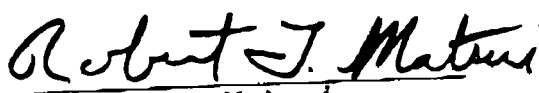
Earlier this week, the Senate Finance Committee voted to approve bipartisan fast-track legislation. We believe the Finance Committee's bill strikes a reasonable balance with respect to various concerns raised about fast-track and is a bill that every Member who wants to support fast-track should be able to support. The bill also includes an extension of requested Trade Adjustment Assistance programs. We are writing to ask for your cosponsorship of this legislation in the House which we intend to introduce next week.

This legislation, agreed to by all but one member of the Finance Committee, lays out 15 detailed principal negotiating objectives, including expanded and strengthened language for agriculture and intellectual property. These are two areas in which we as a country stand to gain in the near term. In addition the bill contains a provision specifically calling for greater transparency in international fora and particularly in the WTO. The bill also tracks with proposals which afford fast track procedures primarily for trade and trade related measures. This strongly reflects the traditional use of fast track authority. Finally, the Finance Committee bill addresses labor and the environment issues in a meaningful and constructive way.

The debate over fast-track thus far has been contentious and divisive. It is time to move from abstract issues to the business of legislating. We believe that it is important to our country's continued leadership on all fronts that we pass fast-track before the Congress adjourns this year. Please join us in this effort.

If you would like to join us as an original co-sponsor of this legislation, please contact either Jim Bonham in Rep. Matsui's office (5-7163) or Chad Jenkins in Rep. Tanner's office (5-4714) by noon, Monday October 6.

Sincerely,


Robert T. Matsui


John S. Tanner