

February 18, 2015

Dear Members of the California delegation,

As businesses with operations and employees located in California, we want to take this opportunity to ask for your support in passing Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation as soon as possible.

As you know, the Golden State is America's leading exporter of agricultural products, and second in overall exports – and this dominance has translated into well-paying jobs for millions of Californians. Trade currently supports 4.7 million jobs in California, and 96 percent of California's exporters are small and medium-sized businesses. Not only have trade-related jobs grown 3.3 times faster than total employment over the past decade, trade jobs pay on average between 13 and 18 percent more than non-trade related jobs.

TPA will help open new markets for California goods and services, and will help our state continue its export success. TPA is an important tool used to craft strong trade agreements that ultimately create new opportunities for small, medium, and large-sized businesses, their workers and their families.

Through TPA, Congress sets the negotiating priorities for new trade agreements. This allows the President and his trade officials to go to our negotiating partners with one voice – a voice with the full weight of the United States behind it – to get the best offers and secure strong trade agreements that will benefit U.S. business and workers.

President Obama said in his State of the Union that America should lead in writing the rules for a twenty-first century trade agenda. We agree. When America takes the lead, we are better positioned to ensure our trade agreements protect American businesses, farmers, and workers, while also raising standards around the world.

Pending and future U.S. trade agreements offer the opportunity to further increase California exports, grow the state's economy, and support well-paying jobs in the state. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, Congress needs to pass TPA soon, and we hope you will support it.

Sincerely,

ABB
AbbVie
ACE Group
Acuity Brands
Alcoa
Altec
American Honda Motor Co.
Amway
Applied Materials, Inc.
BASF Corporation
BSA | The Software Alliance
California Chamber of Commerce

Eaton
Gap Inc.
Intel
Interactive Advertising Bureau
International Paper
Itron, Inc.
Michaels Stores, Inc.
Microsoft Corporation
ON Semiconductor
Port of San Diego
Procter & Gamble
Qualcomm
Schneider Electric
Siemens
Texas Instruments
Tyco
UPS
Varian Medical Systems
Visa Inc.