

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



January 22, 2014

To: Members of the California Congressional Delegation

From: The California Coalition for Free Trade

Re: Support of Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014

We, the undersigned companies and business organizations of the *California Coalition for Free Trade*, urge Congressional approval of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014 (TPA-2014). This legislation will establish strong rules for trade negotiations and Congressional approval of trade pacts to deliver trade agreements that boost US exports and create American jobs. Passage of trade promotion authority will help Congress and the President to work together to forge new and beneficial trade agreements for the United States.

The California Coalition for Free Trade was initiated in May of 2008 by the California Chamber of Commerce Council for International Trade. This group of California companies and business organizations believe that opening markets and promoting trade rules are critical for California's economy. The California Coalition for Free Trade is a broad-based group of companies and business organizations working to secure a national free trade agenda.

It is important for Congressional leaders of both parties to know this legislation is critical to companies, workers, farmers, and ranchers in our state, and that you support this job-creating renewal of trade promotion authority for the President and/or U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements.

Trade is an important engine for US economic growth and jobs. With more than 30% of US gross domestic product tied to international trade and investment, more than one in five US jobs supported by trade, yet 95% of the world's population abroad, US engagement in the international marketplace is more important than ever.

California is one of the 10 largest economies in the world with a GSP of over \$2 trillion. California maintains its perennial position as a top exporting state and we lead the nation in export-related jobs. California exports amount to over \$160 billion annually. Although trade is a nationally determined policy issue, its impact on California is immense. California exports to over 225 foreign markets. Trade offers the opportunity to expand the role of California's exports. In its broadest terms, trade can literally feed the world and raise the living standards of those around us.

Every president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt has been granted the authority to negotiate market-opening trade agreements in consultation with Congress. The landmark Trade Act, H.R. 3009 of August 6, 2002 helped put U.S. businesses, workers and consumers back in the game of international trade by granting the president trade promotion authority.

Since 2002, the United States has completed free trade agreements (FTA) with Australia, Bahrain, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic/Central America, Morocco, Oman, Panama, Peru, Singapore and South Korea. Financially, this translates into the removal of billions of dollars in tariffs for U.S. exports.

Several hundred FTAs are in force worldwide, with the United States party to just a handful. For example, both Canada and Mexico have FTAs with Chile. Mexico has more than 45 FTAs with countries and blocs, including Japan, Israel and the European Union. Chile has more than 50 FTAs with countries worldwide.

The United States' major trading partners are participating in numerous agreements, and trade promotion authority is a prerequisite to meaningful US participation.

Now, without trade promotion authority, the United States will be compelled to sit on the sidelines while other countries negotiate numerous preferential trade agreements that put US companies at a competitive disadvantage. Trade promotion authority not only opens markets and broadens opportunities for US goods and firms; it will make the United States the leader in global trade.

By approving trade promotion authority, Congress can help strategically address the range of US trade negotiations being pursued: the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) between the United States and Asia-Pacific region; the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the United States and European Union; the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) to liberalize trade in services globally; negotiations on a trade facilitation agreement; and negotiations on an updated Information Technology Agreement (ITA) to eliminate tariffs on covered products—as well as future trade negotiations.

The United States had become the world's leading exporter due to increased market access achieved through trade agreements. Trade promotion authority is vital for the President of the United States to negotiate new multilateral, bilateral and sectoral agreements that will continue to tear down barriers to trade and investment, expand markets for U.S. farmers and businesses and create higher-skilled, higher-paying jobs for US workers.

The California Coalition for Free Trade, enthusiastically supports free trade worldwide, expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

The Coalition for Free Trade therefore, supports the extension of trade promotion authority so that the President of the United States may negotiate new multilateral, sectoral and regional trade agreements, ensuring that the United States may continue to gain access to world markets, resulting in an improved economy and additional employment of Americans. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

The California Coalition for Free Trade
(members listed below)

California Coalition for Free Trade Member Companies

- American Logistics International
 - Applied Materials, Inc.
 - Arrowhead Credit Union
 - Bear Creek Winery
 - Blue Diamond Growers
- California Business Ventures
 - Cange International Inc.
 - Caterpillar Inc.
 - Chevron
 - Citigroup, Inc.
- CNA Insurance Companies
 - De Avila Law Firm
 - DHL Express
 - East Bay CITD
- El Camino College CITD
- Express Employment Professionals
- Fernandez Barragan & Associates
 - Fillner Construction Inc.
 - Foxx Hunter Farms
 - Gathers Strategies, Inc.
 - General Electric
- HBLA Certified Public Accountant
 - Hewlett Packard
- Hitchcock Automotive Resources
- Hitchcock Commercial Properties
 - Holtouse, Carlin & VanTright
 - Hunter International
 - Intel Corporation
- International Information Specialists
- International Technical Services
 - Ironstone Vineyards
- Irvine Chamber of Commerce
 - John Kautz Farms
 - Kikkoman Foods Inc.
- LA Metro Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
- Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Lyles Diversified, Inc.
- Montebello Chamber of Commerce
- Monterey Bay International Trade Assn
 - Moon Shot Communications
 - Motion Picture Assn. of America
 - News Corporation / Fox Entertainment Group
 - North County BMW
- Northern California World Trade Center
 - Northridge Toyota
 - OWI Specialized, Inc
- Oliva Global Communications
 - Oracle Corporation
- Orange County Bus. Council
 - Otis McAllister, Inc.
 - Pacific Resources
 - Paramount Farms
- Paulson Manufacturing Corporation
 - Port of Long Beach
 - Port of Los Angeles
 - Puente Hills Toyota
 - RB International
 - Ruiz Foods
 - Safeway, Inc.
- San Diego North Chamber of Commerce
- San Dimas Chamber of Commerce
 - Silicon Valley CITD
 - South Bay BMW
- So. Orange Cty Reg Chambers of Commerce
 - SunWest Foods, Inc
 - The Boeing Company
 - The California Parks Co.
 - The Dow Chemical Company
 - Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc.
 - Tradeport.org
 - Toyota of Santa Barbara
 - Voiland Enterprises
 - WJ Byrnes & Co.