

The logo for the Coalition for U.S.-Russia Trade features a red arc above the text and a blue arc below it, both curving over the words. The text "Coalition for U.S.-Russia Trade" is centered in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

Coalition for U.S.-Russia Trade

March 14, 2012

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

The undersigned members of the Coalition for U.S.-Russia Trade strongly urge you to support legislation that will graduate Russia from the Jackson-Vanik amendment and establish Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with Russia. The Coalition comprises businesses from across the goods, services and agricultural sectors of the economy. Russia's graduation from Jackson-Vanik and PNTR is the top trade priority on the U.S. business community's legislative agenda this year.

This legislation is crucial in order for U.S. manufacturers, service providers, agricultural producers and their employees to take advantage of the many market opening and transparency commitments that form Russia's accession package to the World Trade Organization (WTO). PNTR also gives the United States a powerful tool by enabling the United States to ensure that Russia abides by those commitments through internationally binding WTO dispute settlement.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974 was enacted with the chief purpose of ending the policy that prevented emigration of Jews from the then-Soviet Union. With respect to Russia, the Jackson-Vanik amendment has successfully accomplished its objective. Russia terminated its exit fees on Jewish emigrants in 1991, and today Russian Jews can freely emigrate. Since 1992, U.S. Presidents of both parties have certified annually that Russia complies with the Jackson-Vanik amendment's provisions, and this has allowed the United States to maintain Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status with Russia. Now is the time for Congress to end this certification process and make this normal trading status permanent.

Since no other WTO member has a law similar to Jackson-Vanik, all of Russia's trading partners except the United States will immediately benefit when Russia joins the WTO, which is expected to happen by mid-summer. If Congress fails to enact PNTR with Russia before then, U.S. industry will be on the sidelines of Russia's market, at a disadvantage for lucrative contracts, and without the full tools provided by a WTO relationship.

Russia is the world's 11th largest economy and is already Europe's largest consumer market. We have seen Russia's growing demand for high quality goods and services. Yet many of Russia's WTO commitments that will greatly improve its business climate, such as its adherence to the rules of the international trading system with respect to intellectual property rights, science- and risk-based regulation for animal and plant health, and liberalizations in key sectors such as services will be out of the United States' reach -- unless Congress passes Russia PNTR legislation.

Russia is an important part of U.S. business' global strategy to create and sustain jobs at home by enhancing our long-term competitiveness abroad. Many U.S. companies have developed vibrant, profitable and rapidly-growing business and trade with Russia, with clear strategic benefits to parent companies, exports from, and employment in, the United States. Without PNTR, U.S. companies and their employees will be left behind our competitors in this growing and profitable market.

We strongly urge you to pass the legislation that will enable the U.S. economy to take advantage of Russia's accession to the WTO by supporting legislation to graduate Russia from Jackson-Vanik and enacting PNTR with Russia when it comes up for a vote.

Respectfully,

3M	American Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation
ACE Group	American Soybean Association
AGCO Corporation	Amgen
Abbott Laboratories	Argus Limited
Adams and Reese LLP	Association and Society Management International, Inc.
Aerolase Corporation	Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Aerospace Industries Association	Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP	BP America, Inc.
Alcoa, Inc.	Baker & McKenzie
Almaz Capital Partners	Bank of America
Altrius Group, LLC	Baring Vostok Capital Partners
Amway	Berry Moorman PC
American Automotive Policy Council (AAPC)	The Boeing Company
American Chamber of Commerce in Russia	Brown-Forman Corporation
American Chemistry Council (ACC)	Burlington International Group
American Council of Life Insurers	Business Roundtable
American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS	Business Software Alliance (BSA)
American Farm Bureau Federation	CRDF Global
American Feed Industry Association (AFIA)	California Chamber of Commerce
American Forest & Paper Association	California Poultry Federation
American Foundry Society	Cargill, Inc.
American Institute for International Steel	Case New Holland Inc.
American Natural Soda Ash Corporation (ANSAC)	Caterpillar, Inc.
American-Russian Business Council	Celgene

ChemDiv, Inc.	Exxon Mobil Corporation
Chevron Corporation	Fluor Corporation
Cisco Systems, Inc.	Ford Motor Company
Citi	GBCHealth
Coalition of Service Industries	General Electric Company
Coalition for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR)	General Motors Company
The Coca-Cola Company	Goldman Sachs & Co.
Colliers International	Greater Houston Partnership
ConocoPhillips Company	Grocery Manufacturers Association
Corn Refiners Association	Guardian Industries Corporation
Corning Incorporated	Herbalife International of America, Inc.
Covidien	Hermitage Museum Foundation (USA), Inc.
Council for U.S.-Russia Relations	Hormel Foods Corporation
Cummins, Inc.	IBM
Deere & Company	INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.	Indiana State Poultry Association
The Walt Disney Company	Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Inc.	International Business-Government Counsellors, Inc. (IBC)
The Dow Chemical Company	International Paper Company
DuPont	Iowa Turkey Federation
EcoLab	JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Economic Alliance Snohomish County	Johnson & Johnson
Eli Lilly and Company	Kalorama Partners, LLC
Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT)	Kraft Foods
Emerging Markets Communications LLC	Lawson International, Inc.
Ernst & Young	Lazare Kaplan International Inc.
Eurasia Partners, LP	Limco Logistics, Inc.

Lindsay Corporation	Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
LORD Corporation	The Poultry Federation
Los Alamos Technical Associates	Praxair, Inc.
MARS, Incorporated	Priestley International Consulting
Mattel, Inc.	Procter & Gamble Company
Medtronic, Inc.	PwC
MetLife	QUALCOMM
Microsoft Corporation	RDO Equipment Co.
Mid-Atlantic - Russia Business Council	RSR Russia LLC
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association	Russia Innovation Collaborative, LLC
Mississippi Economic Council – The State Chamber of Commerce	Russian American Foundation, Inc.
Monitor Group	Russin & Vecchi LLP
Morgan Stanley	SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
National Association of Manufacturers	Salans
The National Barley Growers Association	Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)
National Chicken Council	Siguler Guff & Co.
National Corn Growers Association	Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
National Foreign Trade Council	Stephen Bearden H.B. International Marketing Services, Inc.
National Oilseed Processors Association	Sweet Analysis Services, Inc.
National Turkey Federation	TechAmerica
North Carolina Poultry Federation	TechNet
Ohio Poultry Association	Texas Instruments
Oracle Corporation	Texas Turkey Federation
PBN H&K Strategies	Torrey Pines Investment, LLC
PepsiCo, Inc.	Toy Industry Association
Pfizer, Inc.	United States Council for International Business (USCIB)

United Technologies Corporation

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

U.S. Council for International Business (USCIB)

U.S. Poultry and Egg Association

U.S.-Russia Business Council

U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce

U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce of New England

The U.S.A. Dry Peas & Lentil Council

USA Poultry & Egg Export Council (USAPEEC)

Valmont Industries, Inc.

Virginia Poultry Federation

Visa, Inc.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Washington Council on International Trade

Westney Consulting Group

William T. Robinson, PLLC

Wisconsin Poultry & Egg Industries Association

WorldBusiness Capital, Inc.

Xerox Corporation