

November 29, 2010

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sander Levin
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Camp
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Baucus, Chairman Levin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Ranking Member Camp:

As Congress returns for the lame duck session, we, the undersigned companies and associations, urge you to extend the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Programs beyond the current expiration of December 31, 2010.

In early 2009, Republicans and Democrats in both the House and the Senate found common ground to come together to authorize TAA through 2010 and redesign benefits to be more flexible and accessible. This modernization of TAA, carefully crafted to target assistance in a cost-effective manner where it is needed most, is empowering American workers, firms, farmers, ranchers and communities with the tools and assistance they need to succeed in the global economy.

As the U.S. economy struggles to recover from the global economic crisis, TAA is serving more Americans than ever before. Since the new TAA program went into effect on May 18, 2009, over 360,000 workers affected by more than 3,500 layoffs have been certified to receive TAA benefits. TAA for Firms is also seeing record usage this year with a 30% increase in small U.S. manufacturing and service firms being certified into the program over FY-2009. And the TAA for Farmers program has helped about 5,000 agricultural producers across the country improve their competitiveness.

An effective TAA program that gives displaced workers the skills and resources they need to re-enter the job market is a central element of U.S. trade policy and key to future U.S. competitiveness. We urge you to act now to extend TAA, providing the certainty of funding that American workers, firms, farmers, ranchers and communities need to retool for success in the global economy. Failure to do so will adversely impact thousands of Americans, decreasing the number of those eligible for benefits, and making the remaining program provisions more difficult to access and administer.

Sincerely,

The American Business Council, Inc.
Applied Materials, Inc.
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Cargill, Incorporated
Caterpillar Inc.
Coalition for Employment through Exports
(CEE)
Coalition of Service Industries
DuPont

Emergency Committee for American Trade
(ECAT)
Financial Services Forum
General Electric
General Motors
The McGraw-Hill Companies
Microsoft Corporation
Motorola, Inc.
National Foreign Trade Council
National Retail Federation

CC: Committee Members