

**American Farm Bureau Federation  
Coalition of Service Industries  
Emergency Committee on American Trade  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Foreign Trade Council  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
United States Council for International Business**

April 15, 2010

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Obey and Inouye and Ranking Members Lewis and Cochran:

On behalf of the millions of U.S. companies and workers that strongly benefit from international economic engagement, we write to request an additional \$7 million (a 15 percent increase) in funding for the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). As you know, USTR's small and talented team develops and coordinates U.S. international trade and investment policy across the administration and negotiates market-opening agreements with other countries.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration's FY 2011 budget maintains funding for USTR at the same level as prior years (\$48 million) despite an ever-expanding portfolio of trade negotiating, monitoring and enforcement responsibilities. While the status quo may allow USTR to continue to provide a basic level of services, the current level of funding will not maximize USTR's ability to open international markets to U.S. goods and services and ensure effective enforcement of U.S. trade agreements for the American people. Moreover, President Obama recently announced his National Export Initiative with a goal of doubling exports in the next five years and creating 2 million new American jobs. Strong trade policy and enforcement also will be necessary to achieve the goal of doubling exports, and USTR will need additional resources to get the job done.

As the primary agency with responsibility for negotiating market access for U.S. goods and services in the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Doha Round, the recently launched Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, as well as addressing outstanding issues with the pending

trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea to prepare them for congressional consideration, USTR plays a critical role. In order to achieve results for U.S. farmers, ranchers, manufacturers and service providers, USTR should have adequate funds to carry out its responsibilities, which include sending sufficient teams to negotiating rounds and other meetings around the world. We should empower USTR with the same tools as our trade competitors so they can do what they do best and negotiate for a level playing field American goods and services around the world.

Additionally, the administration and Congress continue to champion vigorous enforcement of U.S. free trade agreements and U.S. rights under WTO agreements to ensure that our trading partners play by the rules. Vigorous enforcement requires adequate resources. The small team at USTR all works tirelessly together to ensure that other countries meet their WTO and other international obligations with respect to market access, intellectual property rights, and other commitments. Without sufficient funds, however, USTR will be hampered in its ability to thoroughly investigate and aggressively challenge the full range of unfair trade practices that affect the ability of U.S. firms to compete on a level playing field.

On behalf of the companies and workers that we represent, we respectfully request that you appropriate \$55 million for USTR for FY 2011. From a relatively small increase when considered against the overall federal budget, USTR can accomplish more concrete achievements for the American people and deploy their full resources to doubling U.S. exports in the next five years. We look forward to working with you to advance the international economic, trade and investment agenda.

Sincerely,

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