

# **Significant Changes in NFTC Trade Negotiating Authority Act**

## **Process Changes**

- 1) Renewal of authority for four years with option to extend another four. Designed to coincide with presidential terms.
- 2) Creation of Joint Committee on Trade (JCOT) in lieu of Congressional Oversight Group. Expanded authority.
- 3) Requirement for JCOT vote of approval before President can begin an FTA negotiation. (Would not apply to multilateral rounds.)
- 4) Transition rules that make clear agreements concluded and not acted upon by Congress retain their existing “fast track” status, along with the Doha Round.

## **Negotiating Objectives Changes**

- 1) Separate delineation of multilateral, regional, and environmental objectives.
- 2) Recognition that trade is part of a larger set of overall competitiveness issues.
- 3) New focus on development and maintenance of global supply chains.
- 4) Elimination of most of the sector-specific objectives in previous law.
- 5) Multilateral objectives focus on moving toward a “two-track” system within the WTO in which countries willing to undertake greater liberalization can do so on a non-MFN basis and on tougher enforcement of the “substantially all trade” requirement for FTAs .
- 6) Regional objectives focus on countries that would provide the greatest economic benefit or those that would provide useful precedents in areas like investment, regulatory policy, due process, labor and environment.
- 7) Promote harmonization of the rules in the various bilateral and regional agreements.