



January 27, 2015

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
United States Senate  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0103

Dear Senator Shelby:

The National Foreign Trade Council, an association of some 200 major American multinational corporations engaged in international trade and investment, urges you to support prompt enactment of trade promotion authority (TPA) to provide congressional guidance to our trade negotiators.

Early enactment is critically important because negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership are nearing completion and those for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership are making significant progress. These two negotiations are the most important market-opening and standard-setting trade negotiations in many years.

Enactment of TPA legislation gives Congress the opportunity to give the negotiations direction by laying out the goals and priorities it expects our negotiators to pursue, and by doing so it also gives the Congress a set of criteria by which it can evaluate trade agreements. In addition, by empowering the U.S. negotiators with a congressional mandate, TPA strengthens their position with our trading partners by giving the latter confidence that an agreement is less likely to be unraveled during congressional consideration. For both those reasons, TPA is the key vehicle for congressional participation in negotiating international trade agreements and in ensuring that agreements are promptly considered and debated. Congressional action is especially important because the world economy has been transformed since the last time Congress enacted TPA in 2002. Issues such as the development of global value chains, trans-border data flows now critical to all sectors of the U.S. economy, the need for improved discipline on foreign state-owned enterprises, and practices such as forced localization of data storage have all grown in importance in the last decade and have become significant new trade issues. New TPA legislation will give Congress the opportunity to take these new realities into account and provide appropriate direction to our negotiators.

In addition, the legislation provides the framework for congressional consideration of trade agreements that are concluded, thus presenting members with the chance to address issues regarding transparency and congressional participation.

For these reasons, we believe enactment of new trade promotion authority is essential to maintaining an appropriate congressional role in trade negotiations and is crucial to moving forward on trade agreements that will expand growth and increase jobs, goals which are widely shared by the American public. We urge you to support early enactment of trade promotion authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. A. Reinsch", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

William A Reinsch  
President