

September 15, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the millions of U.S. companies and workers that strongly benefit from international economic engagement, the undersigned associations urge you to promptly schedule Senate consideration of H.R. 2832, which would retroactively renew and extend the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) through July 31, 2013. GSP, which has always enjoyed strong bipartisan support, passed the House by voice vote on September 7, 2011.

For three and a half decades, GSP has promoted economic growth in developing countries by providing duty-free access to the U.S. market for 4,800 selected products from 129 developing countries. The program has also boosted the competitiveness of American manufacturers and lowered the cost of consumer goods for American families. In 2010, U.S. imports under GSP surpassed \$23 billion.

The program, which expired on December 31, 2010, helps keep U.S. manufacturers and their suppliers competitive. Approximately three-quarters of U.S. imports using GSP are raw materials, parts and components, or machinery and equipment used by U.S. companies to manufacture goods in the United States for domestic consumption or for export. The products coming in under GSP generally do not compete with U.S.-made goods in any significant way.

We are gratified with Sen. Reid's recent comments detailing a prospective path forward for the trade agenda and we urge you to promptly schedule Senate consideration of H.R. 2832 so Congress can move forward with the pending trade agreements with Korea, Colombia and Panama, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and renewal of the Andean Trade Preferences Act (ATPA).

Sincerely,

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