



June 10, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
U.S. House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3508

Dear Congressman Boehner:

I am writing on behalf of the National Foreign Trade Council, an association of several hundred leading American companies engaged in international trade and investment, to urge you to vote for H.R. 1314, the "Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015." This legislation opens a clear path to completion of market-opening trade agreements that will increase economic growth and well-paying jobs here in the United States.

This legislation breaks new ground in several important ways. It will enhance the required consultations by the Executive Branch with Congress on trade negotiations, ensuring that Congress sets the priorities for trade agreements. At the same time H.R. 1314 increases the transparency of those negotiations to better reflect the interests of the Congress and the public. Importantly, the bill requires USTR to post the text of trade agreements online at least 60 days before they are finalized. H.R. 1314 also stipulates important negotiating objectives for trade negotiations. These objectives enable Congress to give direction to U.S. negotiators, and they provide the Congress with a template by which to evaluate agreements submitted to them.

Negotiating objectives include increasing market access for American exports and strengthening international rules for trade and investment. The negotiating objectives also include significant provisions to protect and preserve the environment, to protect worker rights and raise labor standards, to afford small businesses equal access to international markets, to recognize the significance of the Internet as a platform for international trade, and to take into account religious freedom. Simply put, H.R. 1314 enables Congress to ensure that trade agreements comport with American values and take full account of the rapidly changing modalities of international trade.

Congress last passed Trade Promotion Authority in 2002. H.R. 1314 reflects the major changes in the world economy since that time and facilitates completion of major current trade negotiations such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, and the Trade in Services Agreement. Together these agreements constitute a strategic and commercial basis for American leadership the 21st Century. The starting point is Trade Promotion Authority. We urge your support of H.R. 1314.

Sincerely,

William A. Reinsch
President