



1300 L Street NW Suite 1020 • Washington DC 20005-4168
phone 202/842-0463 • fax 202/842-9126
www.nopa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Thomas A. Hammer
David J. Hovermale
202.842.0463

NOPA CALLS FOR SWIFT CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Washington, D.C., April 16, 2015 - The National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA) applauds the introduction, and calls for the swift passage, of the bipartisan legislation introduced by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Wyden (D-OR), and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Ryan (R-WI), to modernize and renew Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). This legislation is essential to ensure that pending and future U.S. trade negotiations move forward to completion in order to open new markets for U.S. goods and services, and agricultural products boosting U.S. economic growth, supporting well-paying U.S. jobs.

TPA ensures Congressional input on trade negotiations by defining the principal negotiating objectives that new agreements must pursue. It also protects Congress' oversight authority by mandating specific and extensive consultations with the Executive Branch before, during and after trade negotiations. TPA also strengthens the hands of U.S. negotiators by giving them Congressional direction on key negotiating objectives and assuring our trading partners that the agreements the Executive Branch negotiates will receive an "up or down" vote in Congress.

"With more than 95 percent of the world's population outside of the United States, U.S. economic growth and job creation depends heavily on expanded trade and investment opportunities so that U.S. companies and workers can sell more American products and services in foreign markets." said Tom Hammer, President of the National Oilseed Processors Association. "We thank Senators Hatch and Wyden, and Representative Ryan, for their leadership in crafting this critical bipartisan legislation that will help farmers and ranchers, agribusiness processors and exporters to sell additional U.S. agricultural commodities and products to these expanding foreign markets."

The United States is currently pursuing one of its most ambitious and diverse range of trade negotiations ever, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations with 11 other Asia-Pacific countries and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the European Union (EU) (and its 28 member states). With TPA, the United States will be able to conclude these 21st century trade agreements that support and create U.S. jobs while helping American manufacturers, service providers, farmers and ranchers increase U.S. exports and compete in a highly competitive, globalized economy.

"TPA is key to making sure U.S. businesses, farmers and workers get the best possible outcomes in these pending trade agreements in the Pacific Rim region and in Europe and therefore we strongly encourage Congress and the President to work together to enact it as soon as possible," Hammer stated.

Established in 1929, the National Oilseed Processors Association's mission is to assist the U.S. soybean, canola, flaxseed, sunflower seed and safflower seed processing industries to be the most competitive and efficient in the world by utilizing the combined expertise, knowledge and resources of its members to foster market- and science-based policies. NOPA represents 13 member companies who process over 1.6 billion bushels of oilseeds annually at 63 plants in 19 states, including 57 plants that process soybeans.

###