May 11, 2015

The United States Congress
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

To the Members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives:

As associations representing every sector of the U.S. manufacturing economy, we urge you to support passage of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, introduced by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Ryan (R-WI), Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR). This new Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation contains long-sought updates to the negotiating objectives to direct U.S. negotiators to address growing challenges to our manufacturer’s competitiveness in overseas markets. This TPA legislation also includes new process and transparency provisions to ensure that trade-agreement negotiations proceed with full input from Congress, manufacturers and other stakeholders.

Across the country, trade is working for businesses of all sizes and for the nearly 12 million women and men they employ. Trade agreements negotiated under TPA help manufacturers and workers reach the 95 percent of the world’s consumers who live outside our borders. They eliminate barriers and open markets overseas and have empowered industries to compete for a greater share of the $11.8 trillion global market for manufactured goods.

Renewing this proven partnership between Congress and the President will facilitate the negotiation and approval of trade agreements that eliminate foreign barriers and open new export opportunities for industries and workers in the United States.

Since TPA was last renewed in 2002, U.S. goods exports have more than doubled to a record high of almost $1.4 trillion in 2014. The United States enjoys a nearly $55 billion manufacturing trade surplus with its 20 existing free trade agreement partners. Manufacturing employees in the “most trade-intensive industries” earn 56 percent more than those in manufacturing companies that were less engaged in trade, as found by the Manufacturing Alliance for Productivity and Innovation.

At a time when global growth is slowing, manufacturing industries and their employees need the advantages that trade agreements provide now more than ever to compete successfully abroad. The U.S. market is largely open to the world, with the lowest tariffs on manufactured goods of any G20 country. Yet, these same manufacturers face steep trade barriers abroad. Without TPA, manufacturers in the United States risk being locked out and left behind as other countries negotiate dozens of trade agreements that exclude the United States and our nation’s manufacturers.

With so much at stake for American jobs, growth and competitiveness, we urge you to act quickly to pass the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act for manufacturers and workers.
Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, Inc.
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Chemistry Council
American Cleaning Institute
American Coatings Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL)
American Forest & Paper Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Lighting Association
American Petroleum Institute (API)
America's Natural Gas Alliance
AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology
Association and Society Management International, Inc.
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Auto Care Association
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Business Council of Alabama
Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Electronic Components Industry Association
Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International
Global Automakers
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association
INDA, The Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
Industrial Truck Association
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
International Dairy Foods Association
International Wood Products Association
IPC – Association Connecting Electronics Industries
Irrigation Association
Jackson Area Manufacturers Association
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA)
Lumbermen’s Association of Texas & Louisiana
Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI
Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA)
Metal Powder Industries Federation
Michigan Chemistry Council
Missouri Association of Manufacturers
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
NAHAD - The Association for Hose & Accessories Distribution
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
Non-Ferrous Founders’ Society
Northeast PA Manufacturers & Employers Association
Northern Arizona Loggers Association
NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies
Oregon Women In Timber
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, Inc.
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
Semiconductor Industry Association
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA)
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
SSS Management Corporation
Steel Manufacturers Association
Texas Association of Manufacturers
The Aluminum Association
The Hardwood Federation
The Kansas Chamber
The State Chamber of Oklahoma
The Vinyl Institute
Treated Wood Council
Valley Industrial Association
Vinyl Building Council
Western Equipment Dealers Association
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
Wisconsin Paper Council