

# CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



September 9, 2013

To members of the California Congressional Delegation;

As the 113th Congress returns to Washington for session, the undersigned members of the California Coalition for Free Trade urge you to consider our international trade agenda outlined below.

The California Coalition for Free Trade was initiated in May of 2008 by the California Chamber of Commerce Council for International Trade. This group of California companies and business organizations believe that opening markets and promoting trade rules are critical for California's economy. The California Coalition for Free Trade is a broad-based group of companies and business organizations working to secure a national free trade agenda.

The California Coalition for Free Trade supports free trade worldwide, expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad together with intellectual property protection, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

California is one of the 10 largest economies in the world with a GSP of over \$2 trillion. International related commerce (including exports and imports of goods and services, plus investments) accounts for approximately one-quarter of the state's economy. Although trade is a nationally determined policy issue, its impact on California is immense. California exports to over 220 foreign markets. Trade offers the opportunity to expand the role of California's exports. In its broadest terms, trade can literally feed the world and raise the living standards of those around us.

## ***Trade Promotion Authority***

The California Coalition for Free Trade supports the extension of trade promotion authority so that the President of the United States may negotiate new multilateral, sectoral and regional trade agreements ensuring that the United States may continue to gain access to world markets, resulting in an improved economy and additional employment of Americans.

America's standing as world leader depends directly upon our competitive success in the global economy. For the past half century, the United States has led the world in breaking down barriers to trade and in creating a fairer and freer international trading system based on market economics and the rule of law. Increased market access achieved through trade agreements has played a major role in our nation's success as the world's leading exporter.