

# COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



**August 24, 2015**

**To: Members of the California Congressional Delegation**

**From: (Mrs.) Susanne T. Stirling  
Vice President, International Affairs  
California Chamber of Commerce**

**Re: Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) - Support**

On behalf of the California Chamber of Commerce, our California Council for International Trade would like to reiterate our support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

As you may know, the California Chamber of Commerce is a broad-based nonprofit membership organization through which business, industry and agriculture join forces to work toward positive action on key issues that affect California's economic climate

The organization, established in 1890, is the largest and most broadly based employer representative in Sacramento. Its members include more than 13,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, representing three million jobs--one quarter of the state's private sector workforce, as well as 300 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations.

The California Chamber supports expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

Detailed information vital to the businesses that make California one of the largest exporting states in the nation and one of the largest economies in the world is available on the international trade section of the California Chamber website: [www.calchamber.com/international](http://www.calchamber.com/international).

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 229 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.

The California Chamber of Commerce urges support regarding pending regional and multilateral trade agreements. This is critical to consumers, workers, businesses, farmers, and ranchers in our state that these job-creating trade agreements are negotiated and approved at a time when they are needed more than ever.

Trade Agreements ensure that the United States may continue to gain access to world markets, which will result in an improved economy and additional employment of Americans. We urge your support of these trade agreements that will continue to keep American and Californian businesses competitive.

New multilateral, sectoral and regional trade agreements ensure that the United States may continue to gain access to world markets, resulting in an improved economy and additional employment of Americans.

***The Trans-Pacific Partnership: TPP***

Leaders of the current twelve Trans-Pacific Partnership countries – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam have announced the achievement of the broad outlines of an ambitious, high-standard, regional, 21st century Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement, of which the CalChamber is supportive.

According to a 2013 analysis supported by the Peterson Institute, a TPP agreement provides global income benefits of an estimated \$223 billion per year, by 2025. Real income benefits to the United States are an estimated \$77 billion per year. The TPP could generate an estimated \$305 billion in additional world exports per year by 2025, including an additional \$123.5 billion in U.S. exports.

The market size is nearly 800 million consumers with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of \$28.1 trillion in 2012 (39% of world GDP). In 2013, U.S. exports with the TPP members reached over \$699 billion and California exports were approximately \$70.4 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The TPP Agreement is important as a vehicle for Trans-Pacific-wide economic integration. This regional agreement sets a high standard that will enhance the competitiveness of the countries that are part of it and help facilitate trade and promote investment between them, increasing their economic growth and development. Moreover, the Trans-Pacific Partnership is reinforcing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation goal of promoting regional economic integration and could serve as a potential way to build toward the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.

The California Chamber of Commerce supports allowing California companies to compete more effectively in foreign markets, as well as to attract foreign business to California. We appreciate your consideration of our position of support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership and look forward to working with your Office.