

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



January 22, 2014

To: Members of the California Congressional Delegation
From: The California Coalition for Free Trade
Re: Support of Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014

We, the undersigned companies and business organizations of the *California Coalition for Free Trade*, urge Congressional approval of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014 (TPA-2014). This legislation will establish strong rules for trade negotiations and Congressional approval of trade pacts to deliver trade agreements that boost US exports and create American jobs. Passage of trade promotion authority will help Congress and the President to work together to forge new and beneficial trade agreements for the United States.

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.

It is important for Congressional leaders of both parties to know this legislation is critical to companies, workers, farmers, and ranchers in our state, and that you support this job-creating renewal of trade promotion authority for the President and/or U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements.

Trade is an important engine for US economic growth and jobs. With more than 30% of US gross domestic product tied to international trade and investment, more than one in five US jobs supported by trade, yet 95% of the world's population abroad, US engagement in the international marketplace is more important than ever.

California is one of the 10 largest economies in the world with a GSP of over \$2 trillion. California maintains its perennial position as a top exporting state and we lead the nation in export-related jobs. California exports amount to over \$160 billion annually. Although trade is a nationally determined policy issue, its impact on California is immense. California exports to over 225 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.

Every president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt has been granted the authority to negotiate market-opening trade agreements in consultation with Congress. The landmark Trade Act, H.R. 3009 of August 6, 2002 helped put U.S. businesses, workers and consumers back in the game of international trade by granting the president trade promotion authority.