

THE
NEW ENGLAND
COUNCIL

April 29, 2015

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

The New England Council is encouraged by the recent bipartisan progress in both the House and the Senate toward consensus on legislation granting Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), as well as additional efforts to move forward in addressing several other trade measures. We believe additional trade opportunities can only stimulate further growth and innovation in our region and make New England companies even more globally competitive.

While interstate commerce among the states remains a significant avenue for business prosperity, The New England Council believes that foreign markets must be cultivated to tap into the buying power of this vast and ever-burgeoning consumer base. Indeed, across New England, more than 24,000 companies export to foreign markets, and in 2014, that supported nearly 265,000 export-related jobs for our region. The value of goods exported from New England last year alone was \$56.5 billion.

The New England Council supports free trade to allow New England businesses to buy and sell goods and establish direct investments in markets around the world without impediment. The U.S. must ensure that it is pursuing every course of action possible to get American goods and service exports into the world's expanding marketplace. As such, The New England Council also supports policies that ensure our members can compete freely and fairly on a global scale. Among these is the continuation of Trade Promotion Authority.

The United States is currently negotiating two major multilateral trade agreements--the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)--that would provide greater opportunities for business expansion and job growth across the nation. In fact, the approval of these trade agreements would open up markets comprising approximately two-thirds of the world's gross domestic product (GDP). In order to facilitate these and other trade agreements, assurances must exist that there will not be changes to these agreements as they are being enacted.

The New England Council understands and appreciates the concerns that have been registered that TPA could affect the role of Congress in the trade agreement process. We believe it is possible to craft final TPA legislation that promotes transparency and Congressional consultation, and establishes clear rules for negotiation that will ensure that the concerns surrounding possible adverse impacts of trade agreements will be appropriately addressed.

The New England Council urges Congress to grant TPA authority in order for the U.S. and our trading partners to confidently enter into negotiations and complete agreements that will continue to create business opportunities for New England companies around the world.

Best Regards,



Emily J. Heisig
Senior Vice President, Communications & Federal Affairs

The New England Council

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