

May 1, 2015

Dear Members of the New York State Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the Partnership for New York City, whose members collectively employ 1.5 million New Yorkers, we urge you to support the *Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015* (TPA) and allow negotiation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement to move forward. TPA will result in high-standard trade agreements, containing innovative protections of labor and environmental standards.

We trust that the Obama Administration – working under the strict accountability provisions of TPA – will deal with legitimate concerns that have been raised about enforcement provisions, currency manipulation and protection of American jobs. We strongly believe that the members of the New York delegation should do the same.

New York is one of the top beneficiaries of expanded global trade activity. Already, 25% of merchandise exports from our metropolitan region are purchased by consumers in TPP countries. The TPP will likely result in a significant increase in our exports to markets along the Pacific Rim, creating more jobs and economic activity here at home. An estimated 5,800 jobs are created for every \$1 billion of new export activity. Jobs in the export sector pay 10-20% more on average than jobs in the local economy.

Trade experts and economists agree that the TPP would be a catalyst for creating new jobs in the United States, attracting more foreign investment to this country, and benefitting American workers in a broad range of industries. Economic growth at home can only happen through more aggressive export of American goods and services for purchase by the 95% of the world's consumers who live beyond our borders.

It is vitally important that Congress grant the President the authority he needs to secure the advantages that trade initiatives will bring to American business and workers. We hope you will act accordingly.

Sincerely,

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