**Sample Letter to the Editor - General Trade Letter**

To the Editor:

With 95 percent of the world’s consumers living outside of the United States, manufacturers need access to markets abroad. While my company does not export directly, our customers do and those exports are critical to the success of my business too.

Over the last 25 years, manufacturing output in the United States has quadrupled to a record high, which is supported by a quadrupling of U.S. exports of manufactured goods over the same period.

Today, [company] sells [product type] that are included in products sold in [name of countries or number of countries]. The growth of our customers that trade and export has increased sales for my company, helping us to keep and grow jobs and spur new investment.

Unfortunately, manufacturers in the United States risk falling behind our competitors, and we face more barriers overseas than many of our competitors in Europe and Asia. Congress and the Administration should move forward on a strong trade agenda that will open markets, level the playing field and give manufacturers a boost in the global competition for jobs and investment.