

July 11, 2014

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

The undersigned associations appreciate your continued strong efforts to negotiate a comprehensive and high-standard Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement that will open our TPP partners' markets, level the playing field and set in place strong standards to advance manufacturers' global competitiveness. As the TPP talks move forward, we urge that the final agreement provide that our TPP partners agree to the immediate elimination of tariffs on the broadest range of industrial goods possible and that all tariffs be eliminated within a reasonable time period with no sector or product exclusions or carve outs.

With TPP countries representing \$28 trillion in GDP and almost 800 million consumers that account for about 40 percent of global trade, the TPP's potential to drive new growth and opportunity for manufacturers in the United States is substantially larger than any previous free trade agreement that the United States has negotiated if it achieves the comprehensive and effective market opening, high-standard and enforceable provisions envisioned.

Of particular importance to manufacturers in the United States is the immediate and comprehensive elimination of tariffs on a wide range of industrial goods in our TPP partners' markets, particularly the three countries with which the United States does not already have trade agreements – Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam – as well as remaining tariffs in the other TPP partner countries. To achieve meaningful new access and level the playing field, we urge the immediate elimination of tariffs in TPP partner countries on U.S. manufactured exports, including in particular, automobiles and motor vehicle parts; chemicals; agricultural, construction, electrical, and mining equipment and machinery; leather products; plastics and polymers; remanufactured goods; steel, copper and aluminum products; paper and wood products and distilled spirits. In addition, as in past free trade agreements, all TPP members should, as part of their TPP obligations, agree to join the Information Technology Agreement that eliminates tariffs on information and communications and technology products.

The immediate elimination of manufacturing tariffs in TPP partner countries is a vital prerequisite to achieve a TPP that will link America's highly productive manufacturers to new consumers around the world. Especially at this critical juncture in the negotiations, manufacturers strongly urge you and your negotiating team to achieve the strongest possible market-opening outcome that will substantially boost manufacturers' competitiveness and ability to expand their exports throughout the Asia-Pacific region to create and maintain jobs here at home.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)

The Aluminum Association

American Chemistry Council (ACC)

American Cleaning Institute (ACI)

American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA)
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Auto Care Association (ACA)
CropLife America
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S., Inc. (DISCUS)
Glass Packaging Institute (GPI)
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation (MAPI)
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA)
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association