

June 3, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan and Ranking Member Levin:

We are writing to express strong support for the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (H.R. 1295) that was approved by the Senate 97 to 1 last month. We urge that the House take up and pass this non-controversial measure quickly.

Our associations represent thousands of companies and millions of U.S.-based employees who depend on the provisions in this legislation to support jobs, reduce costs, and remain competitive in today's global economy. These provisions include:

- The retroactive renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program, including an update that permits the future designation of certain travel goods;
- A ten-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA);
- The extension, through 2025, of the Haiti trade preferences program;
- Classification breakouts for performance outerwear; and
- A clarification on the classification of certain athletic footwear.

Swift action on this measure will help ensure that our members are able to continue to support U.S. trade-based jobs and global partnerships.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and your support for House passage of the Senate-passed version of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (H.R. 1295).

Sincerely,

American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)
Association of Food Industries
Coalition for GSP
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)

Columbia River Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association
Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)
Customs Brokers & International Freight Forwarders of Washington State
Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California
Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT)
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association (FJATA)
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of American (FDRA)
International Wood Products Association (IWPA)
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD)
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)
National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)
National Retail Federation (NRF)
Oriental Rug Importers Association
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association, Inc.
PPAI - Promotional Products Association International
Recreation Vehicle Industry Association
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
San Diego Customs Brokers Association
Sports & Fitness Industry Association
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Fashion Industry Association (USFIA)

Cc:

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader