

Linda Dempsey

Vice President

International Economic Affairs

July 15, 2013

Dear Committee Members:

To create jobs and drive growth in the United States, manufacturers must be able to reach the 95 percent of consumers who live outside our borders. When overseas markets are open, businesses and workers win. The 20 countries with which the United States currently has free trade agreements account for just nine percent of the global economy, but nearly 50 percent of all U.S. manufactured goods exports.

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) is essential to strike high-standard trade agreements that open markets and level the playing field for manufacturers. By granting authority to negotiate complex deals that Congress can approve or disapprove but not amend, TPA gives our trading partners the confidence in the United States to put their best offers on the table. It provides an effective oversight role for Congress, while also strengthening the hand of U.S. negotiators to get the best agreement possible.

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) is the nation's oldest and largest industrial trade association, with 12,000 members in all 50 states. The NAM supports comprehensive and durable TPA that builds on the Trade Act of 2002 and meets the complex requirements of today's global business. As explained further in the NAM's Trade Promotion Authority Priorities that may be accessed [here](#), the NAM supports trade negotiating objectives to:

- Eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment, especially practices like forced localization that discriminate against goods manufactured in the United States,
- Facilitate trade, modernize customs and border processing, and cut the cost, time and complexity of selling to overseas markets.
- Require transparent, science-based regulatory processes, limit differences in new regulations and address existing regulatory barriers where possible,
- Protect and enforce intellectual property rights, including patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets and confidential data and source codes,
- Promote secure and open cross-border data flows, while protecting intellectual property, and eliminate requirements to use local information infrastructure,
- Combat illicit trade and the cross-border movement of counterfeit and pirated goods, including in foreign trade zones, and
- Effectively enforce trade agreements and ensure disputes are resolved in an objective and timely manner, including through investor-state dispute settlement.

*Leading Innovation. Creating Opportunity. Pursuing Progress.*

The NAM looks forward to working with Congress and the Administration to craft and secure comprehensive and durable TPA that opens markets and strengthens global competitiveness for manufacturers. For more information about the NAM's TPA priorities, please contact Linda Dempsey ([ldempsey@nam.org](mailto:ldempsey@nam.org)) or Chris Moore ([cmoore@nam.org](mailto:cmoore@nam.org)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda M. Dempsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the last word.

Linda Dempsey