



June 9, 2015

Dear Members of the Georgia Delegation:

We are writing to urge swift action to renew Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) on behalf of the nearly 30,000 members of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the undersigned Georgia-based companies. Our membership represents a diverse group of Georgia businesses of all sizes who will benefit greatly from expanded trade opportunities.

Trade agreements negotiated and concluded under TPA help drive economic growth and job creation here at home. They enable manufacturers, service providers, farmers and ranchers across the country to reach the 95 percent of the world's customers who live outside our borders. One in four manufacturing jobs in the United States depends on exports, and one in every three acres of farmland is planted for consumers overseas. More than 97 percent of the 300,000 U.S. companies that export are small and medium-sized businesses.

However, the international playing field often is tilted unfairly against businesses and workers in the United States. While our market generally is open, U.S. exports face significant barriers abroad. Trade agreements tear down these barriers and create a level playing field. They help firms in this country and the millions of workers they employ compete successfully overseas. America's 20 existing trade agreement partners represent just 10 percent of the global economy, but purchase nearly half of all U.S. exports.

To expand these benefits, the United States is negotiating new trade agreements with some of the world's largest and fastest growing economies, including with Europe (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership – TTIP) and 11 Asia-Pacific (Trans-Pacific Partnership - TPP) nations. The United States also is pursuing multilateral deals that would reduce barriers to trade in services and environmental goods worldwide. However, to realize the potential of these agreements for U.S. jobs, economic growth and competitiveness, Congress must pass Trade Promotion Authority.

In 2013, the countries negotiating these two agreements purchased \$20.9 billion, or 56 percent, of Georgia's goods, and that opportunity will only grow if Congress approves TPP and TTIP. International trade, including exports and imports, supports 1.2 million Georgia jobs – more than 1 in 5. These trade-related jobs grew 4.5 times faster than total employment from 2004 to 2013,

and are at large and small companies, on farms, in factories and at the headquarters of Georgia's globally engaged firms. Georgia ranks among the top 5 state exporters in 14 industries and is America's top exporter of peanuts and poultry. As a result of this increased trade activity, the Ports in Savannah and Brunswick will continue to grow and prosper resulting in new jobs and billions of dollars flowing in to our state's economy.

**W. Paul Bowers**  
2015 Chair

**Chris Clark**  
President and CEO

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TPA is a longstanding and proven partnership between Congress and the President that enables Congress to set negotiating objectives and requires the executive branch to consult extensively with legislators during negotiations. We urge you to support this essential legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Clark  
President & CEO  
Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Enterprise Holdings – Atlanta, GA  
Miller & Martin PLLC – Atlanta, GA  
Liberty Utilities – Gainesville, GA  
Post Properties – Atlanta, GA  
Hussey Gay Bell – Savannah, GA  
Specialized Title Services – Atlanta, GA  
Russell Landscape Companies – Savannah, GA  
Georgia Agribusiness Council – Commerce, GA  
The Beaulieu Group – Dalton, GA  
Penn Hodge Properties – Alpharetta, GA  
AGL Resources – Atlanta, GA  
The Atlanta Braves – Atlanta, GA  
L.E Schwartz & Son, Inc.- Macon, GA  
Georgia Food Industry Association - Smyrna, GA  
Technology Association of Georgia - Atlanta, GA  
Long & Associates - Alpharetta, GA  
Rayonier Advanced Materials – Jesup, GA

Blue Bird Corporation, Fort Valley, GA  
Georgia Chemistry Council, Smyrna, GA  
Georgia Power – Atlanta, GA  
Mohawk Industries – Calhoun, GA  
Georgia Poultry Federation – Gainesville, GA  
Futren – Atlanta, GA  
Burr & Forman LLP – Atlanta, GA  
Seacrest Partners, LLC – Savannah, GA  
The Pendleton Group - Atlanta, GA  
  
Arrow Exterminators – Atlanta, GA  
Cobb Chamber of Commerce – Marietta, GA  
The Coca-Cola Company – Atlanta, GA  
The Home Depot – Smyrna, GA  
Aflac – Columbus, GA  
UPS – Sandy Springs, GA  
MAU Workforce Solutions – Augusta, GA

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Zaxby's, Inc. – Athens, GA

Georgia Public Policy Foundation

Choate Construction – Atlanta, GA

Georgia Ports Authority – Savannah, GA

Textron Specialized Services – Augusta, GA

Northeast Georgia Health System – Gainesville,  
GA

Porsche Cars North America, Inc. – Atlanta, GA

Perlis Corporation – Cordele, GA

JCB North America – Pooler, GA

Cousins Properties Incorporated – Atlanta, GA

Caterpillar, Inc. – Athens, GA

Waste Management – Smyrna, GA

McKenna Long & Aldridge – Atlanta, GA

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