



East Harris County } *Making Good.*
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

June 8, 2015

The Honorable Brian Babin
U.S. House of Representatives
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Babin:

On behalf of the **Texas Association of Manufacturers** (TAM) and the **East Harris County Manufacturers Association** (EHCMA), we write to you today to urge your support of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) as it comes before the House of Representatives for a vote in June. The Texas economy is not only driven by trade, but as the number one exporting state in the country, it also helps drive the U.S. economy. By passing TPA legislation, Congress will be setting the stage for well-paying jobs and increased business opportunities for Texas companies.

Texas is an export powerhouse, sending \$326 billion in goods and services abroad in 2013. Those exports include chemicals, machinery, electronic products, as well as petroleum and coal. They also help support Texas' diverse and thriving economy – supplying good paying jobs that support families and communities across the state.

As members of Congress debate whether to promote international trade by passing TPA, it is important to take a look at how past free trade agreements (FTAs) have impacted Texas. Since 2003, Texas goods exports to countries with whom the United States has an FTA in place increased by 174 percent, and in 2013, FTA partners purchased 22.3 times more goods per capita from Texas than non-FTA partners. The state's exports to Chile have skyrocketed by more than 1,200 percent since the 2004 FTA with Chile went into effect.

There is no question that trade agreements have benefitted Texas, and trade deals currently being negotiated, such as the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), hold even more potential.

The TPP is a negotiation with 11 important Asian and South American countries and accounts for roughly 40 percent of U.S. GDP. Closer to home, Texas exported \$140.9 billion in goods to TPP countries in 2013, accounting for 51 percent of our total exports globally. In addition, Texas trade with TPP countries supports 1.2 million jobs in Texas. Erasing tariff and non-tariff barriers

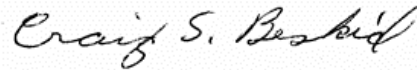
in TPP countries will increase opportunities for Texas exports.

TPP means business for Texas throughout our state, and we respectfully ask for your support of TPA in order to build upon these trade and investment relationships and to support the Texas jobs that depend on them.

Sincerely,



Richard A. (Tony) Bennett
President, TAM



Craig Beskid
Executive Director, EHCMA

About TAM:

The Texas Association of Manufacturers represents over 450 large and small companies from every manufacturing sector, employing more than 890,000 Texans with an average compensation of \$78,000 a year (the highest in the private sector). Texas manufacturers contributed \$233 billion to the Texas economy in 2013 and one-third of all corporate taxes collected by state and local governments. Manufactured goods account for 94.6 percent of all Texas exports and Texas has held the distinction as the #1 exporting state in the U.S. for several consecutive years.

About EHCMA:

The East Harris County Manufacturers Association is a professional organization that includes more than 130 manufacturing companies. We are dedicated to providing jobs, upholding environmental standards and providing a better quality of life for our neighbors in and around the Greater Houston area. Since our founding in 1987, we've grown into the largest network of its kind in the world. Our member companies have facilities in Houston, Deer Park, Baytown, Pasadena, North Channel and La Porte.