

CAL DOOLEY
PRESIDENT AND CEO



May 20, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader of the United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) urges House consideration, support and passage of the *Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015* ([H.R.1890/S.995](#)), introduced by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR). This Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation contains long-sought updates to negotiating objectives that direct U.S. negotiators to address growing challenges to the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers in overseas markets. The legislation also includes new process and transparency provisions to ensure that trade agreement negotiations proceed with full input from Congress, industry and other stakeholders.

Approval of TPA is one of ACC's top trade priorities. As one of the nation's leading export industries, the reduction or elimination of trade barriers and the opening of new markets are of critical importance to the U.S. business of chemistry. The availability of low cost natural gas has been a game changer for the competitiveness of American chemical manufacturers, laying the groundwork for a broader manufacturing renaissance and attracting significant foreign investment to U.S. shores, with more than \$140 billion in announced new investment. TPA is a necessary tool to unleash the massive growth potential for U.S. chemical exports, enable chemical manufacturers to drive job growth in the broader manufacturing sector, eliminate costly barriers to chemicals trade, and resolve 21st-century trade issues limiting manufacturing growth in the U.S. and around the world.

U.S. chemical exports as a whole surpassed \$190 billion in 2014 and are expected to expand nearly eight percent per year through 2019, to \$282 billion. Even with the recent drop in oil prices, *gross* exports of chemical products linked to low cost natural gas are expected to double in fifteen years, from \$60 billion in 2014, to \$123 billion by 2030. We see TPA as a critical factor in establishing the policy direction for ambitious trade agreements that will open markets and help ensure industry can capitalize on its massive export potential, and in growing the number of well-paying American jobs right here at home, where of the nearly 800,000 Americans employed by chemistry, more than 200,000 are in export-dependent jobs. These numbers will only continue to grow with expanded chemical manufacturing production here in the United States.



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The trade agreements currently being negotiated, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Agreement represent historic opportunities to support U.S. growth and jobs. Congressional passage of TPA legislation will send a signal to our negotiating partners that Congress supports high-standard and market-opening outcomes in these negotiations and help guide Congressional review and consideration of each final trade agreement.

ACC will continue to support negotiations on the TPP and the TTIP, and we urge Congress to move expeditiously to approve TPA to ensure that these comprehensive and historic negotiations are finalized and American businesses and consumers can benefit from their outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cal Dooley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cal Dooley

cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

