



May 8, 2015

Honorable Patty Murray  
US Senate  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

**We are writing to express our strong support for the *Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015* and to urge you to support this legislation.**

This Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation would empower Congress to lay out its requirements for our nation's trade policy and would require the Executive Branch to follow these guidelines when negotiating trade agreements. As a result, TPA strengthens congressional oversight of trade negotiations and enables our country to negotiate the best possible agreement for our employers and workers. **In particular, since this legislation has such strong provisions for improving environment, labor and human rights in partner countries, it offers an outstanding tool to raise the global standards as well as promote and protect American values.**

TPA is necessary to move forward with progressive trade agreements like the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), ensuring they work in our favor. In Washington state, where trade is the single largest driver of our economy and responsible for 40 percent of jobs, employers sell and source goods and services around the world. **We need new trade agreements like TTIP and TPP that lower tariffs and reduce barriers impeding the success and efficiency of global supply chains.** Exports from the U.S. are often at a disadvantage compared to our competitors because we face higher tariffs; the U.S. ranks 130<sup>th</sup> out of 138 countries for highest tariffs faced. Yet without TPA, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to pass trade agreements that would break down those barriers in foreign countries.

Successful TTIP and TPP agreements will establish high standards and rules for 70% of world trade and will drive job creation and economic growth in our state. For example, TTIP alone is expected to increase Washington exports to the EU by 26% and create 17,000 jobs in our state. **It is imperative that Congress pass TPA soon or risk losing out on the momentous benefits of these agreements.**

Please take the first step in moving forward trade agreements forward that would benefit Washington state's economy and values by supporting this TPA legislation.

Sincerely,

Catherine Filippini  
Executive Director

Richard Horsfield  
Chairman