



UNITED STATES MANUFACTURING COUNCIL

May 20, 2016

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary of Commerce
United States Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Madam Secretary,

With over 95% of the world's potential consumers living outside the United States, international trade is critical to our success. The Manufacturing Council (Council) understands the critical need to establish and keep the U.S. manufacturing industrial base on globally competitive footing. We also recognize this is a complex undertaking which requires the Department of Commerce, in concert with other federal government agencies and stakeholders, to consider a variety of actions ranging from the provision of export financing to elimination of market access barriers abroad.

Madam Secretary, we recommend that you work with Congress to secure passage of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

With the TPP covering over 40% of global GDP, this agreement is critical to opening markets for U.S. companies. This would significantly improve U.S. companies' access to the Asia-Pacific region, which is projected to import nearly \$10 trillion worth of goods in 2020¹. Congress needs to do everything possible to ensure that U.S. companies have a fair opportunity in those markets. Without the TPP, our products face significant barriers to entry.

U.S. businesses are more connected with the global economy than ever before. We depend on foreign markets and one in five American jobs now depends on global trade. Free and fair trade is necessary to support our economy and our quality of life.

The U.S. market is largely an open, nondiscriminatory market for our trading partners, yet our companies face roadblocks when entering critical markets. We need trade agreements, like the Trans-Pacific Partnership to modernize these rules of international trade and establish high standards on the important issues.

The American people deserve to have an economy that can compete now and well into the future. We encourage you to use your influence and the expertise of the Commerce department to support TPP.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Susan Smyth in black ink.

Susan Smyth
Chair, U.S. Manufacturing Council

Handwritten signature of Claudine Martinez in black ink.

Claudine Martinez
Vice Chair, U.S. Manufacturing Council

¹ U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "Trans-Pacific Partnership," April 16, 2015, <https://www.uschamber.com/issue-brief/trans-pacific-partnership>



Jan Allman
Co-Chair, Trade, Tax Policy,
and Export Growth Subcommittee



Bill Yeargin
Co-Chair, Trade, Tax Policy,
and Export Growth Subcommittee