

November 30, 2012

Tricia Van Orden  
Executive Secretary  
President's Export Council  
Room 4043  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. Van Orden:

The American Soybean Association (ASA) is pleased to respond to the Federal Register notice of November 20, 2012, requesting comments related to export expansion through streamlined consideration of trade legislation. ASA is the national organization which represents U.S. soybean producers on domestic and international policy issues.

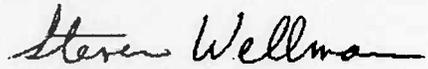
ASA has strongly supported every trade agreement negotiated by the United States, including multilateral, regional and bilateral Free Trade Agreements. These negotiations have been facilitated through Congressional extension of Presidential Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), under which final agreements are considered by both the House and the Senate on an up-or-down basis, and are not subject to amendment. The TPA process is integral to entering into negotiations because other countries need to know that the U.S. Government will not alter the final terms of an agreement after talks are concluded.

The last extension of TPA expired in 2007 and renewal is a high priority for soybean producers. While the Doha Round of negotiations under the auspices of the World Trade Organization is currently in a hiatus, the U.S. is engaged in the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, and there is discussion of initiating an FTA with the European Union. In addition, ASA has recommended several countries with which FTAs would be beneficial to trade in soy and livestock products. These prospective talks cannot advance without a new TPA extension.

Finally, we would point out that other countries, including several major U.S. competitors in the soy and livestock sectors, continue to enter into and conclude FTAs with important U.S. customers. The longer TPA renewal is delayed, the more export opportunities are lost to our industries.

For these reasons, we strongly support streamlining consideration of trade agreements by extending Presidential Trade Promotion Authority in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Wellman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Steve Wellman  
President