

THE PRESIDENT'S EXPORT COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

November 16, 2011

President's Export Council Statement on Progress on the International Trade Agenda

In recent months, significant progress has been made on multiple fronts on the international trade and economic agenda. We commend you and your Administration for this progress, which is all the more notable and critical during these challenging economic times, and we urge you to continue to push forward on these and other fronts to open markets to U.S. exports and expand our ability to create U.S. jobs.

Passage of the free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama is a significant accomplishment, which can boost exports and jobs immediately. It is a demonstration of the positive results that can be achieved through bipartisan efforts, and we urge you to work to ensure that all three agreements enter into force as quickly as possible.

The recent completion of negotiations for Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) is nearly two decades in the making. Russia's entry into the WTO on commercially meaningful terms will open a critical market to U.S. exports. Agreeing to the terms of accession, however, is just the first step. We urge you to continue to work to ensure that Russia abides by the many commitments it has made, and we also urge you to work with the Congress to end the application of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to Russia, so that American companies can fully benefit from Russia's membership. We are committed to fully support these actions.

The successful conclusion of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting and the announcement of the broad outlines of a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement are also positive steps forward. We encourage you to push these negotiations forward in 2012 so that our companies and workers can have expanded access to important overseas markets. These achievements show that progress is possible with countries that share the U.S. vision of open markets even in troubled economic times. We are ready to work with you to complete these valuable agreements.