Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you as new and returning Republican Members of the U.S. House of Representatives who strongly believe that expanding trade and exports will increase economic growth and create jobs across the country. Trade supports more than 38 million American jobs that pay on average 15-20 percent more than non-trade jobs. U.S. economic growth has greatly benefited from expanding trade, with exports growing twice as fast as GDP since 2002. The benefits of trade are spread throughout the economy – in fact more than 98 percent of U.S. exporters are small- or medium-sized companies.

There is great potential in the negotiations now underway for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, and the Trade in Services Agreement, among other trade initiatives. All of these negotiations provide an opportunity to include strong and enforceable provisions that would eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers for U.S. exports of goods, services, and agricultural products, as well as ensure strong disciplines in other areas.

Advancing our nation's trade agenda has been rightly identified as a potential area for bipartisan cooperation this year. We are committed to working with you to pass bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) to set the stage for concluding the best possible deal in each of our ongoing trade negotiations.

Through TPA, Congress establishes the negotiating objectives for the Administration and ensures that Congress is consulted closely throughout the negotiations. TPA reaffirms that Congress has the final say on any trade agreement by requiring an up-or-down vote before implementation.

Swift action early this year on TPA would pave the way for sustained economic growth and job creation. We urge you to include TPA as one of your administration's top priorities for the 114th Congress and look forward to working with you to pass TPA early this year.

Sincerely,

TOM EMMER
Member of Congress

MIMI WALTERS
Member of Congress

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MARTHA MCSALLY
Member of Congress

FRENCH HILL
Member of Congress

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