

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 3, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC

Dear President Obama,

We support your goal of establishing a high-standard Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement that will foster new trade and investment and create a platform for economic integration across the Asia-Pacific region. We are optimistic that such an agreement could provide new opportunities for Americans to buy and sell goods and services. We also believe that additional flexibilities in the rules of origin and duty-free market access for apparel are important to sustain and grow American jobs.

The U.S. objective in TPP negotiations is to achieve a state-of-the-art trade agreement that includes broad market access for U.S. goods, services, and agriculture exports, protection of intellectual property rights and investment, and a robust framework for addressing state-owned enterprises, among other issues.

To help achieve our goals for the TPP, and to support American jobs, U.S. negotiators should pursue flexible rules of origin for apparel beyond the short supply provisions currently under discussion. Such flexibilities, which have been included in recent U.S. FTAs, are critical to unlocking market access for U.S. manufacturers, farmers, and service providers. These flexibilities for apparel are also essential for growing U.S. yarn and fabric exports. Immediate and reciprocal duty-free market access and flexible rules for apparel will support the three million Americans whose jobs directly depend on the global value chains that design, produce, and sell apparel imports.

Meaningful flexibilities in the rules of origin for apparel and immediate and reciprocal duty-free access are important to support American jobs and American families. These measures are also crucial as leverage to ensure an ambitious agreement that provides real market access for U.S. manufacturers, farmers, and services and achieves the desired disciplines in a variety of other key areas.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,




Mark Warner
United States Senator



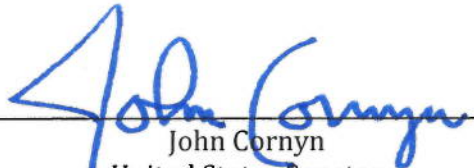
Diane Feinstein
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator




Ron Wyden
United States Senator



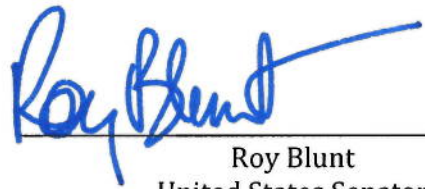
John Cornyn
United States Senator




Mike Johanns
United States Senator



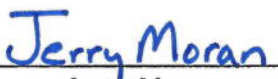
John Boozman
United States Senator




Roy Blunt
United States Senator



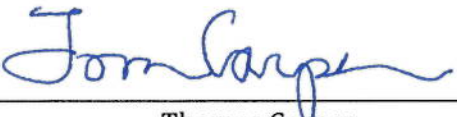
Chuck Grassley
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Patrick Toomey
United States Senator



Thomas Carper
United States Senator