

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2015

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

If the United States wants to remain competitive, we must help lead in the global economy of the 21st century. That means negotiating trade agreements with developing markets and established trading partners that protect labor and protect the environment. With over 95% of the world's customers living outside our borders, engaging in the world market will be essential for the growth of the U.S. economy. Carefully negotiated trade agreements with developing markets and established trading partners will be broadly beneficial for both American workers and American businesses. In the state of Colorado, over 87% of exporting businesses are small- and medium-sized businesses. For these local businesses, trade agreements are essential, as they often lack the overseas capacity large multinationals have to navigate complex systems of international trading laws and trading barriers. To hold back and restrict our small businesses' access to foreign markets would hamper the American economy for years to come.

However, any trade deal must be carefully constructed, as poorly crafted negotiations can significantly harm our workers and our economy. I believe it is important for Democrats and Republicans in both the House and Senate to be open to an aggressive trade agenda while also ensuring that any agreement meets high standards on issues relating to labor, human rights, the environment, protection of wildlife, and 21st century concerns such as IP and the free flow of data. Given your role as the Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, with broad jurisdiction over our trade agenda, I strongly urge you to include the following provisions in any Trade Promotion Authority package. Meeting these criteria will ensure high-quality, high-standards trade agreements that work for American workers and American businesses.

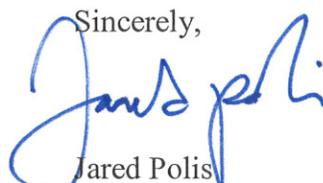
1. **Preserve strong language to codify the bipartisan May 10th agreement.** In 2007, Congressional Democrats secured a landmark agreement on labor and environmental standards in future trade agreements. Commonly known as the May 10th agreement, these standards have paved the way for constructive trade agreements that are beneficial to the interests of workers and protect our environment for future generations. The May 10th agreement guaranteed workers the right to organize, banned child labor and prohibited forced labor in trading-partner countries. It also required trading partners to enforce environmental laws already on their books and comply with international environmental agreements. This agreement should be codified to ensure that it will be the minimum standard on the environment and labor by which all future trade agreements are measured.

2. **Increase public transparency and congressional consultation** to ensure that Congress and the general public have the tools necessary to conduct proper oversight over trade negotiations. This includes your own Smart Track proposal, which requires the committees of jurisdiction to certify that any agreement meets the negotiation objectives set forth by the Trade Promotion Authority and that any administration has met all standards of transparency before expedited floor consideration is granted. We must also allow increased access for Congressional staff with adequate security clearances. And finally, and perhaps most importantly, we must set strong transparency requirements that ensure that the general public has adequate and proper time to review and provide feedback to any proposed trade agreements prior to Congressional floor consideration.
3. **Strengthen our ability to enforce our trade laws and trade agreements**, enable the United States government to better combat trade cheats, and allow for a level playing field for our workers and manufacturers. This should include but not be limited to bipartisan legislation such as the ENFORCE Act and other enforcement mechanisms.
4. **Reauthorize Trade Adjustment Assistance**, which ensures trade-impacted communities and workers are given the resources they need to compete and succeed in the global 21st century economy. Trade Adjustment Assistance should be enacted for the same length as any Trade Promotion Authority agreement.
5. **Preserve and further clarify the sovereignty of the United States** through language that makes it clear that the federal government, states, and local governments reserve the right to pass and uphold any law that was passed in the public interest, whether it be an environmental measure, public health regulation, or financial regulation.

I believe that when given a level playing field, American workers and American businesses will be more innovative, harder working, and more successful than any foreign competitors in the global economy. American workers and American businesses deserve a trade policy that enables them to access foreign markets, but still protects their interests and ensures that we will not become victims of unfair practices.

Through these trade policies, the United States can export more than just products; we can also export our labor and environmental standards. It is through economic engagement that we can raise the level of worker protections, environmental protections, and human rights standards across the world.

I look forward to working with you to craft a trade policy that works for the 21st century and works for American families.

Sincerely,

Jared Polis
Member of Congress