



June 10, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:


We write on behalf of the U.S. technology sector, representing software, hardware, services, Internet, and application companies of all sizes, to express our strong support for the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA).

Technology hardware and software are a significant percentage of U.S. exports around the world. As importantly, the proliferation of the Internet, the transfer of digital data, and the digital delivery of goods and services have created tremendous opportunities for innovative companies, large and small, transforming the U.S. high tech sector. As the sector has evolved significantly since the last time trade promotion authority passed Congress in 2002, so have the challenges impacting the ability of our member companies to access global markets.

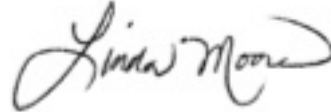
Unfortunately, the rules of the road for how to treat trade enabled by the Internet and online platforms are not clear. Many countries are erecting new barriers to U.S. companies exporting digital products and services and continue creating impediments for technology hardware and semiconductor companies to gain access to their markets.

This TPA bill reinforces longstanding U.S. trade positions with respect to technology trade – for instance, reinforcing commitments from our trading partners to join the World Trade Organization Information Technology Agreement. It creates strong new provisions against forced localization measures, and protects cross-border data flows, ensuring the burgeoning demand for our companies' digital goods and services is not thwarted by foreign governments before it is fully developed. TPA will create a gold standard framework for global trade that is reflective of today's digital economy and the growing importance of the technology and Internet sectors.

We urge the House to swiftly pass TPA to support the almost 40 million American jobs supported by trade and ensure that our trade policy is ready for the 21st century.



Dean C. Garfield
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