

June 3, 2015

Congressman Steven Palazzo
United States House of Representatives
331 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

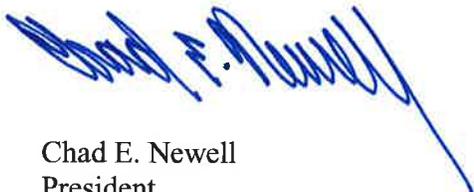
Dear Congressman Palazzo:

On behalf of the Area Development Partnership (ADP), I am writing to urge you to support the “Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015,” renewing Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). Manufacturers and farmers in America depend on free/fair trade agreements. Nearly 40 million American jobs depend on trade. Here in Mississippi, trade supports over 335,000 jobs and our exports reached \$15.4 billion in 2014. Small businesses are gaining traction with export promotion activities. Bio Soil Enhancers is an excellent example here in Greater Hattiesburg as the company is now exporting to over 40 countries around the world and is consistently ranked by Inc. 5,000 as one of America’s fastest growing companies. Suma Grow, Bio Soil Enhancers primary product, greatly increases crop yields. The company’s ability to export is driving their local job growth.

With the Port of Gulfport expansion, along with our close proximity to major ports in Mobile and New Orleans, our region is poised to seize opportunities as global trade barriers are removed. Our nation’s twenty trade agreement partners purchase nearly half of U.S. exports, supporting more than 5 million American jobs. The proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the European Union could have major positive ramifications for our global marketplace. For these agreements to have a chance of coming to fruition, Congress must first renew TPA, which expired in 2007.

Without TPA, the U.S. is hamstrung in finalizing international trade agreements with many U.S. jobs hanging in the balance. As a rapidly growing community in the Gulf South, Greater Hattiesburg’s close proximity to three Gulf ports is important but only leveraged fully if proper policies are in place that encourage new trade agreements that open foreign markets. It seems that TPA will allow Congress to have the buy-in necessary to get new trade agreements negotiated and passed as the Administration leads the negotiating process. Greater Hattiesburg led the state in the percentage of employment growth in 2014 and we want to do everything possible to ensure that this trend continues. Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Chad E. Newell
President