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# MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU® FEDERATION

*Our mission is to create an environment in which Mississippi farmers, ranchers, and Farm Bureau members can have a better life and make a better living.*

Mike McCormick  
President

June 12, 2015

The Honorable Steven Palazzo  
331 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Palazzo:

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, the state's largest general farm organization, urges your support now for the *Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015* (TPA), H.R. 1314. The negotiating objectives, consultation processes, transparency and voting procedures to effectively consider trade agreements make this a positive achievement in meeting our trade goals.

Over the past 40 years, TPA and its precedent versions have provided U.S. negotiators the ability to reach agreements with other nations on trade matters that are not open to change by Congress, yet TPA has protected Congress' constitutional role to set trade objectives and priorities and, importantly, reserve the final "yea" or "nay" on the resulting agreement.

Last year, in agriculture alone, America's farmers and ranchers exported over \$152 billion in food, fiber, feed and energy commodities and products to customers around the world and provided the United States a positive net trade of \$43 billion over imports. However, 2015 projections suggest U.S. agricultural exports will fall by \$12 billion. While some of this decrease is the result of lower commodity prices for certain crops, it is also the result of the ongoing challenges U.S. negotiators face in reaching multi-lateral agreements and resolving trade conflicts with our international trading partners. Farm Bureau's farmers and ranchers urge you to extend this critical tool to our negotiating team.

We urge you now to support passage of H.R. 1314. Mississippi's farmers and ranchers appreciate your vote and your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike McCormick".

Mike McCormick  
President

MM/SN/tw

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