



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Michael R. Pence
Governor

April 10, 2015

Dear Members of the Indiana Congressional Delegation,

Congress will hopefully soon be considering several items that are important to Indiana's economy and trade relationships. I am writing today to encourage you to support Trade Promotion Authority legislation (TPA) and other trade agreements that will better position Indiana entrepreneurs and businesses to grow exports from the Hoosier state to the world.

In Indiana, I often say, we do two things really well: make things and grow things. Of course there is more to our economy than that, but for Hoosiers who are working every day in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors to produce goods that will be sent to the far corners of the world, TPA is vitally important.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement with countries in the Asia-Pacific region is nearing the end of negotiations, but without TPA it is unlikely to be finalized or receive a vote in Congress. The same can be said for the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) trade agreement with European nations, as negotiations on it continue.

During the last two years, I have traveled to Asia and Europe on trade missions to Japan and Germany, and I can tell you first-hand that TPP and TTIP provide an abundance of opportunities for Indiana businesses and will help to grow jobs in our state. Japan is Indiana's largest Asian trading partner, with the Hoosier state exporting \$1.6 billion in goods to Japan in 2014. Exports to Germany, Indiana's largest European partner, were similarly valued at \$1.6 billion in 2014. According to the Department of Commerce, total Indiana goods exports around the world were a record \$35.5 billion in 2014, with \$20.1 billion of that amount being exported to TPP countries and \$8.2 billion to TTIP nations. According to the Business Roundtable, from 2004-2013 employment related to trade grew nearly ten times as fast as total employment in Indiana. The Department of Commerce reports that jobs in export related industries pay approximately 18 percent more than jobs in non-export related industries.

As you know, my administration has made job growth job number one. We passed the largest state tax cut in Indiana history, lowered the corporate income tax, reduced the regulatory burden, and have taken numerous other measures to improve the business environment and the education and workforce skills of Hoosiers. Those are things we can do at home, but reducing tariffs and other trade barriers so that Indiana businesses can enjoy increased market access and fairly compete on the world stage is something that Congress must do. I encourage your support for TPA, TPP, TTIP and any other trade-related measures when they are brought before the Congress for consideration.

Indiana is the State that Works. You can continue to make it so, and increase our opportunities, by supporting the passage of TPA, TPP and TTIP. I urge you to do so and look forward to answering any of your questions on these trade matters.

Thank you for your service to the nation and our state.

Sincerely,


Michael R. Pence
Governor