

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
(202) 224-2523
(202) 224-2893 (FAX)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

February , 2014

Dear

Thank you for taking the time to share with me your concerns about the Trans-Pacific Partnership and granting the President Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). I appreciate your taking the time to do so.

I too have serious concerns about the ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations which I have expressed to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) Michael Froman on many occasions. I have repeatedly urged USTR to exclude from the agreement sharp tariff reductions on sensitive items critical to the domestic footwear manufacturing industry, which is so important to Maine's economy. This industry employs thousands of Americans, including 900 Mainers who work in athletic footwear manufacturing. I am concerned about the potential loss of these jobs to foreign countries if the Administration negotiates an unfavorable agreement.

In deciding how to vote on any free trade agreement, I carefully assess the impact of the agreement on those employed in Maine's manufacturing industries, agriculture sector, and small businesses. I also review the agreement's environmental, labor, and human rights protections. This careful reasoning has led me to support some agreements, such as the Peruvian FTA, and to vote against others, such as CAFTA. Please be assured that I will continue to follow the ongoing TPP negotiations closely and will give any potential agreement the same scrutiny.

I also have noted your opposition to renewing TPA, which would give the President the

authority to negotiate, in consultation with Congress, certain reciprocal trade agreements that would then be considered by Congress under expedited procedures. President Obama has requested that Congress renew TPA, which expired in 2007. On January 9, the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014 (S. 1900) – a bill to grant the President TPA for four years with an option to renew for an additional three years – was introduced and referred to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration. I am not a member of this Committee.

On January 29, 2014, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who controls the Senate floor schedule, declared his opposition to renewing TPA, making it increasingly unlikely that the Senate would consider such legislation in the near term. If legislation to renew TPA is brought the Senate floor for consideration, I will benefit from knowing your views.

Thank you, again, for contacting me to express your concerns. Should the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act or any other proposal to extend TPA be brought before the full Senate for consideration, I will be sure to keep your concerns in mind.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

P.S. If you would like to receive weekly updates about my work on behalf of Maine in the United States Senate, you can subscribe to my e-newsletter by [clicking here](#).