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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

April 13, 2015

Dr.

Dear

Thank you for contacting me with your concerns about the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) 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 deep tariff reductions on sensitive items critical to the domestic footwear manufacturing industry, which is an important part of Maine's economy. This industry employs thousands of Americans, including about 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 (FTA), 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 the Dominican Republic–Central American FTA. 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 understand your opposition to renewing TPA, which would give the President the authority to negotiate certain trade agreements that would then be considered by Congress under expedited procedures. President Obama has requested that Congress renew TPA, which expired in 2007, and the Senate Finance Committee is currently considering the issue.

Again, thank you for contacting me to express your concerns. Should any proposal to renew TPA come before the full Senate, I will be sure to keep your concerns in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Collins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue color.

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](#).