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## **Senator Collins Announces Support for Trade Adjustment Assistance and Opposition to TPP**

U.S. Senator Susan Collins voted this week in favor of proceeding to debate the trade bill before the United States Senate. After the vote, Senator Collins made the following statement:

*"I voted for the motion to begin debate today because the legislation included an extension of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) which expired at the end of 2014. This critical extension, which I co-authored with Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), has been essential to workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. In 2013 alone, more than 700 Mainers benefitted from the TAA programs.*

*"My vote should not be construed as signifying support for either Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) or the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). I remain very skeptical about granting the President TPA as it paves the way for TPP, which could in turn threaten many American jobs.*

*"I am especially concerned about Maine's shoemaking jobs, some of which could be jeopardized by TPP. New Balance, for example, employs nearly 900 workers at three Maine factories. Every briefing that I have received on TPP has left me concerned that these workers could be severely disadvantaged by this trade deal. I am concerned that TPP will end up penalizing companies like New Balance that have remained committed to American manufacturing, rather than moving all of their production jobs overseas.*

*"Notwithstanding the vote today, unless it differs substantially from where it appears to be heading, I will very likely oppose TPP when it is considered by the Senate."*

E-News: Senator Collins May 15, 2015