

January 15, 2015

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the undersigned Associations, we write to urge you to schedule a vote in the Senate to pass the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (H.R. 644), also known as Customs Reauthorization. As you know, the House agreed to the Conference Report on December 11, 2015. We have worked for over a decade to bring this long-overdue legislation to passage, and so we urge you to quickly schedule a vote on the conference report.

The undersigned Associations represent a large cross-section of the U.S. economy whose members are manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers and service providers to the industry, which is comprised of brokers, freight forwarders, trade advisors, insurers, security providers, transportation interests and ports.

TFTEA enjoys broad bi-partisan support because it contains many provisions that will save money for American businesses and American consumers. The bill does this by updating customs laws and procedures to keep pace with evolving business trends, leading to increased efficiency. For example, the Customs Reauthorization bill contains provisions that affect every day trade operations - raising the *de minimis* level for imports, simplified importation of containers for bulk commodities, modernization and simplification of duty drawback, and many others that streamline the customs process for importing goods and result in bottom-line savings.

It is critical that the Senate complete passage of this bi-partisan legislation and get it to the President's desk as the efficiencies contained in the bill will contribute to the growth of the U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)

American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)

American Petroleum Institute (API)

American Trucking Association (ATA)

Canadian Association of Importers & Exporters (I.E.Canada)

Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)

Express Association of America (EAA)

Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)

Gemini Shippers Association

Institute of Makers of Explosives

International Trade Surety Association (ITSA)

National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD)

National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)

National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)

National Industrial Transportation League (NITL)

National Tank Truck Carriers (NTTC)

Reusable Industrial Packaging Association (RIPA)

Travel Goods Association (TGA)

United States Council for International Business (USCIB)