



Washington Council on International Trade

September 7, 2016

Dear Members of the Washington Congressional delegation,

We, the undersigned 74 Washington state employers, are pleased to share our strong support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and to urge a vote in Congress on the agreement this year.

We are grateful for your continuing leadership in promoting high-standard trade policy; with 40 percent of Washington jobs dependent upon trade, it is paramount that we prioritize policies and investments that increase our state's international competitiveness. **That is why it is so important that you join us in calling for an immediate vote on the TPP; according to a newly released Washington Council on International Trade-Association of Washington Business study, Washington could have already increased our exports by up to \$8.7 billion and directly created 26,000 new jobs had the TPP been implemented in 2015.**

While the U.S. has some of the lowest import duties in the world on most goods, our local Washington exporters are faced with thousands of tariffs that artificially inflate the cost of American-made goods. TPP will help eliminate these barriers. In addition, the TPP will lower costs for Washington retailers and manufacturers who import certain consumer goods and manufacturing components that face high tariffs. These tariffs only serve to inflate costs for U.S. consumers. By reducing these costs, the TPP will enable Washington employers to invest more in local jobs and research and development while reducing prices for consumers.

TPP aligns with Washington's high standards, setting 21st century standards for digital trade, environmental protections, and labor rules. Plus, by creating streamlined customs and regulatory procedures, this agreement paves the path for small and medium-sized enterprises to reach foreign markets and for Washington retailers and manufacturers to increase the efficiency of their supply chains. **If we want to increase our competitiveness and set American standards for global trade, we must act now with the TPP.**

This election season's rhetoric has been hostile toward trade, but the TPP's benefits for our state are undeniable. **It is imperative that our state steps up to advocate for the family wage jobs and economic opportunities created by trade, and the time to do so is now.**

We urge you to act now to protect the business and trade-dependent jobs that make Washington so vibrant.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Schinfeld". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Schinfeld
President
Washington Council on International Trade

On behalf of



Washington Council on International Trade

Aerospace Futures Alliance
Aleutian Spray Fisheries
Amazon
American Seafoods
Arctic Storm Management Group
Association of Washington Business
At-sea Processors Association
Basta Boatlifts
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
Brooks Running
Brown & Haley
Caterpillar Inc.
Columbia River Economic Development Council
Commercial Creamery
Darigold
Desh International Law
Domex Superfresh Growers
Economic Alliance Snohomish County
Everett Mall
Freezer Longline Coalition
Glacier Fish Company
Greater Spokane Inc.
Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Harris Moure LLC
Hilleberg the Tentmaker
Itron
James Farrell & Co.
KAVU True Outdoorwear
K&L Gates LLP
Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
L'Ecole No 41 Winery
Manhasset Specialty Co.
Microsoft Corporation
Milne Fruit
Norfil
Northwest Door
Northwest Horticultural Council
NW Seaport Alliance
Outdoor Research
Pacific Seafood Processors Association
Pacific Valley Foods
Pearson Packaging Systems
Port of Everett
Port of Pasco
Port of Seattle
Ray-Mont Logistics America
Russell Investments
SANMAR
Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
SightLife
SSA Marine
Stemilt Growers
Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
The Boeing Company
Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce
Trident Seafoods
UPS
Wagstaff
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers
Washington Cattle Feeders Association
Washington Council on International Trade
Washington Retail Association
Washington Roundtable
Washington State Farm Bureau
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Washington Trust Bank
Washington Wine Institute
Waterstone Brands
Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce
Westwood Shipping Lines
World Trade Center Tacoma