

Issues@TheLatinoCoalition

Trade Promotion Authority

Passage of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation (HR 3005), which strengthens the ability of the United States to negotiate trade agreements, is critical to:

- Strengthen U.S. leadership on trade internationally;
- Help promote economic growth in the country as a whole; and
- Create concrete opportunities for U.S. companies, workers and their families.

What Is Trade Promotion Authority (TPA)?

TPA is a trade-negotiating tool, once known as “fast-track,” to help the President and Congress work together to develop U.S. trade policy. With TPA (currently under consideration in Congress as HR 3005), Congress defines the objectives that U.S. negotiators should seek and requires the Administration to consult with Congress at every step of the negotiations. Once an agreement is brought back, Congress will consider the agreement within a set time period and without amendment. It does not, however, require that Congress approve the trade agreement.

Why Is Trade Promotion Authority Important?

Trade Promotion Authority is crucial to ensure that the United States is at the negotiating table when new trade agreements are reached so that we can help set the rules of the game. Since this authority expired in 1994, our trading partners continue to conclude special deals that exclude us and benefit them. If the United States is not in the room, you can be sure that these agreements will not be in the best interest of U.S. companies, their workers or their families.

- Of the more than 130 bilateral and regional free trade agreements in force today, only three include the United States.
- Only 11 percent of world exports are covered by American trade agreements, compared with 33 percent for European Union free trade agreements and customs agreements.
- Without TPA, the US will not be at the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiating table, which would triple US exports to South America to \$200 billion within a decade.
- 96% of the world’s consumers live outside the United States. We must trade with them to expand our economy, create jobs and raise standards of living at home and abroad.
- Exports account for more than one quarter of our economic growth.
- One in 10 people—over 12 Million Americans —work at jobs that depend on exports of goods and services.
- Export jobs typically pay 13 to 18 percent more than the average US wage.
- By lowering barriers in other countries and reducing import taxes here, the 1993 NAFTA and the 1994 Uruguay Round World Trade Organization Agreements produced an income gain for of \$1,260 to \$2,040 for the average American family of four.
- Small- and medium-size businesses are the backbone of America’s economy—and 97 percent of

exporters are small- or medium-size enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

.....
[Home](#) | [About Us/Contact](#) | [News & Press Releases](#) | [Issues & Policy](#) | [Events & Photos](#) | [Join us!](#)
.....

© 2001, The Latino Coalition.
All rights reserved.

The Latino Coalition
707 5th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
Phone: (202) 546-0008
Fax: (202) 546-0807