



CALIFORNIA
TABLE GRAPE
COMMISSION

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Ms. Tricia Van Orden
Executive Secretary
President's National Export Council, Room 4043
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Van Orden:

The California table grape industry is in support of expansive Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation in the upcoming congressional session.

California produces 99 percent of the table grapes grown commercially in the U.S. In 2011, California table grape growers exported over \$700 million worth of grapes to countries around the world. Export growth has been steadily increasing over the last decade, with over 40 percent of the volume exported in 2011. The lower tariffs achieved through FTAs implemented over the past decade have played an important role in that export expansion and in the subsequent bolstering of the economy of the industry.

We believe it is important for the Obama Administration to have the authority to negotiate agreements with trading partners in a transparent process that ensures commitments made will not be removed or changed through the legislative approval process. The lack of such authority weakens the Administration's position in any negotiation that is undertaken.

With competing table grape producing countries actively seeking tariff advantages it is important for the U.S. to be a full and active participant in the process of creating trade agreements that will facilitate export business and expand the economy. For that to occur, TPA is necessary.

If there is additional information we can provide to assist in future deliberations, please let me know.

Regards,

Kathleen Nave
President