



November 30, 2012

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

Dear Ms. Van Orden,

I am pleased to submit these comments in preparation for the December 6, 2012 meeting of the President's Export Council, which is being held to review recommendations "related to export expansion through streamlined consideration of trade legislation and through building a competitive manufacturing workforce." The members of the Corn Refiners Association (CRA) strongly support the Council's goal of promoting exports. One of the best ways to increase exports is by negotiating comprehensive, 21st century agreements that include food and agricultural products and eliminate the tariff and non-tariff barriers that prevent market access around the world.

CRA is the national trade association representing the corn refining (wet milling) industry of the United States. The association and its predecessors have served this important segment of American agribusiness since 1913. Corn refiners manufacture sweeteners, ethanol, starch, bioproducts, corn oil and feed products from corn components such as starch, oil, protein and fiber. In 2011, exports of products from corn totaled approximately \$2.8 billion.

Given the importance of trade to our industry, we would encourage the Export Council to recommend that the Administration seek Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) to provide for expeditious consideration of trade legislation. TPA should cover the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, a potential Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union, ongoing World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, and any other trade agreements that may be negotiated while TPA is in effect.

The TPP and a possible comprehensive FTA with the European Union offer great promise for our industry in particular and the U.S. economy in general. A robust TPA would signal to foreign negotiators that the President and Congress are committed to moving these and other agreements and ensuring they remain intact. As negotiations on TPP move towards completion, the timing is right for the Administration to pursue such authority.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If I can provide any additional information, please contact me at (202) 331-1634 or aerickson@corn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Erickson".

Audrae Erickson
President