

November 30, 2012

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



**Re: Federal Register/Vol. 77, No. 224 Tuesday, November 20, 2012, Notices: President's Export Council**

Dear Ms. Van Orden:

This letter is in response to the notice in the Federal Register in which private sector comments are sought by the President's Export Council (PEC) on recommendations related to export expansion through streamlined consideration of trade legislation.

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) appreciates the opportunity to present its views on streamlined consideration of trade legislation, which is commonly known as trade promotion authority. NPPC is an association representing a federation of 43 state producer organizations, and represents the federal and global interests of 67,000 U.S. pork operations that annually generate approximately \$15 billion in farm gate sales.

To put our comments on this matter in proper context it is essential to understand the importance of exports to the U.S. pork industry and the considerable value they add to both the agriculture economy and to the overall U.S. economy. An estimated \$21 billion of personal income from sales of more than \$97 billion and \$34.5 billion of gross national product are supported by the U.S. hog industry. Iowa State University economists estimate that the U.S. pork industry is directly responsible for the creation of nearly 35,000 full-time equivalent jobs and helps generate an additional 515,000 indirect jobs such as in veterinary services, input supplies and other local business support.

For each 1 percent increase in the size of the U.S. pork industry, the U.S. economy creates 920 direct full-time jobs and 4,575 jobs in total. And for each additional 1 percent of U.S. pork production that is exported, live hog prices increase by approximately \$3 per hog. Higher prices eventually stimulate additional pork production, and the industry expands to meet the new opportunity, thus creating more jobs.

Last year, U.S. pork exports were valued at \$6.2 billion, almost \$1.5 billion more than the year before. Through September of this year, they are on a pace to match or exceed that value despite the effects of the severe drought across much of our nation. USDA estimates that each \$1 billion in additional agricultural exports generates approximately 7,800 new U.S. jobs, but in the meat

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sector, USDA puts the job-creating number at over 11,500. So, the increase in pork exports in 2011 created about 17,250 new U.S. jobs.

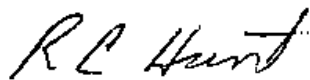
Trade Promotion Authority has been an important element in the negotiation and subsequent congressional approval of all U.S. trade agreements since the 1960's. It permits the President to negotiate trade deals based on strategic goals and objectives outlined in the legislation with ongoing congressional oversight. Congress may approve or disapprove resulting trade agreements but may not amend them.

This process has worked well over the years. Our negotiating partners understand that Congress is monitoring the negotiations on the basis of the goals it has laid down in TPA. But they also know that the deal they strike with U.S. negotiators will not be subject to congressional amendment, which would then require renegotiation of any deal they reach. They understand, therefore, that they can put their best offer on the table and not withhold concessions out of fear that Congress will later demand that they do more.

The most recent TPA expired in 2007. Since then, the U.S. has entered into only one new trade negotiation (the Trans-Pacific Partnership), while our competitors around the world have entered into, and concluded, literally hundreds of bilateral and regional deals. Those agreements have put U.S. exports at a distinct disadvantage in the markets of the participating countries. Our products remain subject to higher and discriminatory tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers than the exports of the participants. Even the TPP will ultimately require passage of streamlined trade legislation to ensure its final approval.

The United States can only reassert its traditional leadership role in international trade negotiations is by enacting new TPA legislation. NPPC will be strongly supporting such legislation and will urge that it be expansive so as to encompass TPP, a possible U.S.-EU FTA, and all other trade agreements that might be negotiated over the life of the bill.

Sincerely,



RC Hunt  
President, National Pork Producers Council

cc: Neil Dierks, CEO, National Pork Producers Council

cc: Nicholas D. Giordano, Vice President and Counsel for International Affairs, National Pork Producers Council

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