

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) presents an opportunity for the United States to gain increased market access to the Asia-Pacific region. Breaking down foreign trade barriers and boosting exports to this region has the potential to create jobs here at home and help drive economic growth.

As you know, Japan has recently expressed interest in joining the TPP. Hopefully, this is a sign that Japan is committed to ending the significant barriers to trade between the United States and Japan. American goods and services face serious market access barriers in Japan, including a number of agriculture products, insurance, drugs, medical devices, and especially autos. Japan remains the most closed auto market among developed nations; Japan ships more than 200 cars to the U.S. for every one car we export there.

Many of these barriers are deeply embedded in Japan, and they continue to be propagated by the Japanese government. Recently, Japan instituted the Eco-friendly Automobile Purchase Program, similar to our successful Cash for Clunkers program. The open, inclusive, and transparent U.S. program developed and approved by Congress specifically allowed all global automakers to have vehicles eligible for vehicle purchase incentives, including Japanese automakers, so as to comply with international trade rules. The Japanese program was instituted in a discriminatory fashion; by using EPA "city" mileage ratings instead of the more accurate EPA "combined city/highway" mileage ratings, Japan severely limited the availability of U.S. auto models that qualified for this program.

Too often, the U.S. opens its markets to foreign competition without reciprocal access. While we play by the rules, other countries use technical barriers or other techniques like currency manipulation to game international trade laws. American workers are the best in the world and we must allow them to compete on a level playing field.

The TPP represents a chance to form a new template for all future trade agreements, and adding Japan to this agreement while they maintain unacceptable barriers to American goods and services would be a step in the wrong direction. It would also remove a powerful incentive for them to change their discriminatory trade practices. Japan must show that they are serious about opening their market before the United States grants additional trade benefits. We therefore urge you to oppose Japan's inclusion in TPP negotiations at this time. We look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress



John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



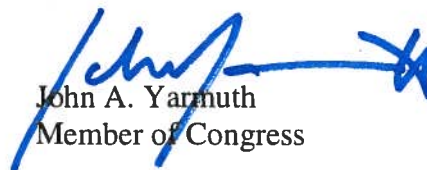
Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress