

MASSACHUSETTS
HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

May 28, 2015

The Honorable Michael E. Capuano
United States House of Representatives
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Capuano,

As you consider the *Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015* (HR 1890) and trade promotion authority, the Massachusetts High Technology Council urges you to consider the ways in which international trade significantly benefits Massachusetts businesses, including the high technology companies we represent. Nearly 1 million jobs in Massachusetts are reliant on international trade and an estimated 125,000 jobs are created as a result of Massachusetts exports. Exports from Massachusetts have increased by 25% over the last decade, and Massachusetts companies sold more than \$27 billion in goods to other countries last year.

The United States' benefits from more than \$147 billion in annual economic activity from high technology exports, significantly driving the national economy. It's important to note that nearly half of all exports of U.S. manufactured goods go to countries that have free trade agreements with the United States. Many of Massachusetts' leading industrial products are exported to nations that do not currently have trade agreements in place, including Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Vietnam. In these countries, tariffs on certain products, including health and high-tech instruments, can be as high as 30 percent.

The CEO-level technology leaders of the Massachusetts High Technology Council are among the most innovative and inspiring business people in the United States and their companies employ thousands of Massachusetts residents. The expansion of trade, and your support for (HR 1890), is a vital component of these companies' ability to increase exports, expand and create jobs.

The trade promotion authority provisions currently under consideration by Congress would enhance the United States' ability to negotiate trade agreements with higher, enforceable standards. U.S. trade negotiators would be further empowered to increase foreign market access for U.S. goods and services, protect intellectual property rights, increase investment protections, address currency manipulation, ensure fair labor practices, protect the environment and enforce the rule of law. The legislation also establishes negotiating priorities, requires consultations with Congress, and allows Congress to halt any agreements should the Administration fail to adhere to Congressional priorities or fail to satisfy Congressional consultation requirements.

Members of the Massachusetts delegation, including Representative Neal through his senior role on the House Ways and Means Committee, are well-positioned to give a voice to both Massachusetts' businesses and labor advocates by making key contributions to the language that will set the stage for President Obama's team to negotiate all trade deals going forward.

Trade promotion authority is essential for the United States to maintain its leadership in the global economy. Our country's global partner and competitor nations will continue to establish advantageous trade agreements, regardless of whether the U.S. chooses to participate. The United States must take a leadership role whenever the international rules of commerce are written, and our nation and Commonwealth will be severely disadvantaged if we choose to stand on the sidelines. Please support the legislative efforts that will give the President clear direction as he works to promote our nation's high standards as a leading participant and beneficiary of expanded international trade.

Sincerely,



Christopher R. Anderson
President