



**Pete Ricketts**  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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March 5, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1702

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator McConnell and Speaker Boehner:

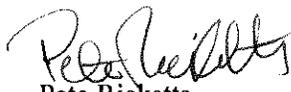
We are writing to request you use your leadership positions to move forward expeditiously legislation that will grant Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) to the President.

International trade is a critical piece of Nebraska's economy, impacting two of our largest sectors, agriculture and manufacturing. We exported \$7.3 billion in products in 2013, much of that attributed to our agriculture base and the processing sector tied to it. While we have seen growth in the value of exports during the time period since TPA expired in 2007, we recognize that the authority provided by this legislation allows for a better negotiating position.

We are at an important point in our history in regard to opening the doors to foreign markets. As you know, the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), as well as the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP), have the opportunity to provide increased market access that will drive new growth. TPA also could prove to be a helpful tool in finalizing bilateral negotiations between the United States and other nations, representing new markets, improved access, and/or lower tariffs.

TPA has been granted to every President since 1974 to provide him with the needed negotiating power to secure trade agreements with our foreign partners. We believe the timely approval of this important authority for the President is critical to helping us continue to grow Nebraska's economy. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Pete Ricketts  
Governor

  
Greg Ibach  
Director of Agriculture

Name: Das Jahn  
Organization: NE Farm Bureau

Name: Bob Tuel  
Organization: NE Farmers Union

Name: Kenneth F. Brunell  
Organization: Nebraska Soybean Assn

Name: Chris Abbott  
Organization: ICON

Name: Ron DePaul  
Organization: producer

Name: Tom A. Ramm  
Organization: ICON

Name: Tim Chancellor  
Organization: Nebraska Pork Producers

Name: Mark Wetland  
Organization: NE Grapes Winery Board

Name: Paul Kenney  
Organization: Ne Ethanol Board

Name: Stefan Kopley  
Organization: Nebr. Winery & Grape Growers Assoc (NW GGA)

Name: Tim Jod  
Organization: NSBG Dairy Producers

Name: Ken Paulsen  
Organization: NW GGA

Name: Rob Johnson  
Organization: NE Grain & Feed

Name: Rob Johnson  
Organization: Nebr State Dairy Assn

Name: Andrew J. Daniels  
Organization: Nebr Fruit & Vegetable Assn

Name: James Eukler  
Organization: Dairy

Name: Deon Keenan  
Organization: Nebr. Dry Bean Growers

Name: Lowell Mueller  
Organization: Midwest Dairy Assn

Name: Conrad Acker  
Organization: NE Dry Bean Commission

Name: William L. Thaler  
Organization: Nebraska State Dairy Association

Name: Brent Robertson Name: David Mc Crahan  
Organization: Nebraska Wheat Board Organization: Nebraska CATTLEMEN

Name: Paul M Name: Jeff Colby  
Organization: Nebraska Wheat Growers Organization: Nebraska Potatoe Committee

Name: Julie M. Kelly Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: Nebraska Poultry Industries Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Tom Eschen Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: Nebraska Corn Board Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Tom Nathan Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: Nebraska Corn Growers Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

- copies: Honorable U.S. Senator Deb Fischer
- Honorable U.S. Senator Ben Sasse
- Honorable Congressman Jeff Fortenberry
- Honorable Congressman Adrian Smith
- Honorable Congressman Brad Ashford