



John F. Reinhart
CEO/Executive Director

Virginia Port Authority
600 World Trade Center
Norfolk, VA 23510

June 9, 2015

The Honorable J. Randy Forbes
United States House of Representatives
2135 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Forbes:

The Port of Virginia is the fifth largest container port complex in the nation and among the fastest growing container ports on the US East Coast. This modern port, with shipping channels that are 50-foot deep and extensive intermodal connections to the Midwest, is a critical gateway for the movement of goods throughout the country and to the world. In FY2013, the Port of Virginia moved nearly 18 million tons of cargo valued at \$53.2 billion, including 4.5 million tons of made-in-Virginia cargo worth \$10.9 billion.

Given the Port of Virginia's role as a global gateway for trade, the port supports the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA); TPA legislative is essential to the completion of international trade agreements including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), while still ensuring Congressional approval with an up-or-down vote.

The Port of Virginia is a significant economic force in the Commonwealth's economy, providing a total economic impact in Virginia of \$60.3 billion in spending. The \$60 billion in spending is supported by \$17.5 billion in wages paid to more than 374,000 employees, accounting for 9.4% of Virginia's workforce. In total, the port contributes \$30.5 billion, or nearly 7%, to Virginia's Gross State Product. TPA legislation and the resulting free trade agreements (FTAs) will allow the port's economic impact to continue to grow.

FTAs have helped fuel rapid export growth from Virginia to partner countries. In 2013, 38 percent of Virginia's exports went to FTA partners, an 85 percent increase over the preceding 10 years. TPP in particular will open new markets for Virginia with five Asia-Pacific countries that are not current FTA partners, eliminating tariffs in Brunei, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Vietnam. While Virginia has important trade and investment ties with some TPP countries, TPP will help build on these trade and investment relationships and support the Virginia jobs that depend on them.

With the US population projected to increase another 42% by 2050, there will be greater demand for goods, and passage of TPA legislation will allow Virginia and the nation to access the ever growing global populations. Thank you for your careful consideration of TPA, and please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully yours,

Andrew M. Sinclair
Director, Government Affairs