



Computer & Communications
Industry Association

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July 17, 2002

The Honorable John Boehner
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Boehner:

I am writing to urge progress on the current conference for H.R. 3009, authorizing Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) for the President. TPA has the potential to provide very real and tangible benefits to all sectors of economy, especially high-tech, the largest manufacturing and exporting sector of our economy.

The Computer & Communications Industry Association has long and consistently advocated for expanding free and fair trade throughout the world. We have seen the many advantages and benefits this has given the United States economy, and firmly believe that the only way to expand these benefits is to give the President TPA.

It is imperative to act swiftly in giving the President this much-needed tool. Our trading partners have expressed frustration about the difficulty in negotiating agreements with us. Notably, less than a month ago, European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said that the failure to give the President TPA would have a "huge cost" on efforts to reach a global trade agreement by 2005. Since beginning efforts to pass TPA, the number of trade agreements worldwide has risen to 190; of them, the US is a party to only 4.

While there are valid substantive differences that need to be worked out in conference, it is our hope that all the issues can be resolved, and a bi-partisan bill, that will enjoy a majority in both chambers can be reported out before the August recess. TPA is good for our economy, it is good for Americans, and it is good for our industry. The time is now to get TPA out of conference and to the President. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Gabe Rubin of my staff at (202)783-0070.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Black', is written over a white background.

Ed Black
President & CEO