



June 3, 2015

Dear Representative,

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) supports the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA 2015), and urges your support as well.

The AF&PA serves to advance a sustainable U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, and wood products manufacturing industry through fact-based public policy and marketplace advocacy. AF&PA member companies make products essential for everyday life from renewable and recyclable resources and are committed to continuous improvement through the industry's sustainability initiative - [Better Practices, Better Planet 2020](#). The forest products industry accounts for nearly four percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufactures over \$200 billion in products annually, and employs approximately 900,000 men and women. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$50 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 47 states.

The United States is one of the world's most diverse exporters of sustainable forest products. Exports are an important component of the industry's economic health, accounting for about 15 percent of total sales of U.S. forest products. In 2014, U.S. exports of forest products amounted to \$31.9 billion, of which \$22.2 billion were exports of pulp and paper products, and \$9.7 billion exports of wood and wood products. In addition, the industry benefits from *indirect* exports – i.e., domestic sales of paper, paperboard and wood packaging materials that are used to package and transport goods exported by other U.S. industries.

With over 95 percent of the world's population living outside of the U.S., international trade and free trade agreements (FTAs) that remove barriers to trade are critical to a strong consumer-driven manufacturing industry like ours. U.S. tariffs on imported pulp and paper products are already at zero and the average tariff on wood products is fairly low, so achieving tariff elimination for U.S. exports through FTAs will benefit the domestic forest products industry.

AF&PA supports free and fair trade. Our major international competitors are negotiating and concluding barrier-reducing trade agreements for their companies that could leave U.S. forest products companies at a competitive disadvantage. It is critical for U.S. paper and wood products manufacturers to achieve unrestricted access to these markets and level the playing field among international competitors by eliminating tariff

and non-tariff barriers. We believe that FTAs offer significant opportunities for achieving the industry's trade and competitiveness objectives.

The successful conclusion of the current Trans- Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations will require the granting to the President of trade promotion authority (TPA). We believe that TPA is essential to allow the Administration to complete the negotiation and implement these trade agreements, while following congressional objectives and priorities. We also support the Administration's effort to include provisions in FTAs that require strong enforcement of illegal logging laws so that foreign producers do not benefit from the lax legal enforcement to the detriment of U.S. producers.

A new, updated TPA also allows future presidents to enter into and conclude strong, new market-opening agreements. Congress must pass TPA legislation as soon as possible, and I urge you to support the TPA 2015 bill.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Harman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna A. Harman  
President and Chief Executive Officer