

May 10, 2013

Douglas Bell
Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee
United States Trade Representative
1724 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

RE: Docket No. USTR-2013-0019; Request for Comments Concerning Proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

Dear Chairman Bell:

I am writing to you in response to the request for comments concerning the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement appearing in the April 1, 2013 Federal Register (Docket Number USTR-2013-0019). On behalf of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, I am pleased to make this submission.

The Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) is a unique partnership between some of the country's largest manufacturing employers and the United Steelworkers Union. As a labor-management partnership, we seek to find common ground on many of the critical issues facing our nation's domestic manufacturers. Balanced trade policy is one of the critical issues that AAM has been deeply involved in as we promote a pro-trade, pro-growth, pro-employment agenda – one that benefits companies and workers in the United States.

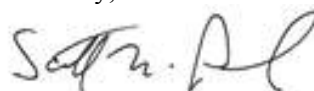
The TTIP negotiations provide an opportunity to help level the playing field with regard to trade relations between the United States and the European Union (EU) and its member states. The size of the EU market and the opportunity to gain greater access to its producers and consumers could provide a boost to our manufacturing sector if the agreement is appropriately negotiated. On the other hand, a poorly negotiated agreement could have negative consequences.

We know that the Administration has received a broad range of input already on the TTIP and that many issues were addressed as part of the High Level Working Group's report. Among them is the need to ensure that our trade laws remain strong and strictly enforced and efforts to include mechanisms to address enlargement of the EU. With this letter, however, I want to pay particular attention to government procurement.

U.S. procurement laws fully comply with our international trade obligations. Negotiations for a TTIP must not undermine those laws and the ability to ensure that taxpayers are able to maximize the utilization of their hard-earned dollars to stimulate investment and production in the United States. For example, U.S. Buy America preferences that apply to federal funds for mass transit and highway projects should not be subject to negotiation. Moreover, new disciplines to expand the coverage for sub-federal entities must not be imposed via the TTIP. In this regard, the desire of states to participate or not must be respected.

We want to emphasize that there are many important issues that must be properly addressed in the TTIP, including market access, regulatory coherence, and rules of origin. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you and other Administration officials to ensure that the TTIP promotes economic growth, production, opportunity, and job creation in the United States.

Sincerely,



Scott N. Paul
President