

# Automotive Trade Policy Council

DAIMLERCHRYSLER



GM General Motors

October 24, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
H-232 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

The Automotive Trade Policy Council and its member companies—DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Ford Motor Company and General Motors Corporation—urge your support for Congressional passage of Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with Vietnam. Bringing Vietnam into the WTO's rules-based international trading system is clearly in America's national interest. As a WTO member, Vietnam will assume the obligations to conform to international trading norms and will offer trade concessions stemming from the specific commitments it has made in bilateral accession agreements with WTO members.

More importantly, supporting the extension of PNTR for Vietnam will ensure that the benefits of more open, liberalized market access for U.S. products which were negotiated in the bilateral U.S.-Vietnam accession agreement are locked in to provide potential new business opportunities for all American products, communities and workers.

The WTO accession agreement with Vietnam includes very specific provisions that are quite important to the U.S. automotive industry. It liberalizes Vietnam's auto market through reductions in tariffs and removal of non-tariff barriers and trade-related investment measures (TRIMS). While modest in its initial impact, this opening will offer greater opportunities for the US automotive sector in one of Asia's most rapidly growing economies, and one whose auto market is poised for expansion over the next decade.

Passing PNTR for Vietnam and welcoming it as the newest member of the World Trade Organization is the right and responsible action for the United States to take. It will also demonstrate very clearly that the United States is willing and open to negotiate trade agreements with our trading partners that are balanced and reciprocal and stimulate U.S. economic growth and development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Collins".

Stephen J. Collins  
President