

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA, CHAIRMAN

ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH
TRENT LOTT, MISSISSIPPI
OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, MAINE
JON KYL, ARIZONA
CRAIG THOMAS, WYOMING
RICK SANTORUM, PENNSYLVANIA
BILL FRIST, TENNESSEE
GORDON SMITH, OREGON
JIM BUNNING, KENTUCKY
MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO

MAX BAUCUS, MONTANA
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, WEST VIRGINIA
KENT CONRAD, NORTH DAKOTA
JAMES M. JEFFORDS II, VERMONT
JEFF BINGAMAN, NEW MEXICO
JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS
BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, ARKANSAS
RON WYDEN, OREGON
CHARLES E. SCHUMER, NEW YORK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

KOLAN DAVIS, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
RUSSELL SULLIVAN, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

September 8, 2006

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Nearly one dozen senators and over forty members of the House of Representatives are sponsors of historic legislation to grant Vietnam Permanent Normal Trade Relations ("PNTR") status. PNTR completes the process of U.S.-Vietnam reconciliation that your father, with the support of Congress, began in 1992 with his visionary "roadmap." Since that time, successive administrations and Members of Congress took bold action to account for prisoners of war and personnel missing in action, normalize political relations, and spark economic engagement. With this bill, your administration and Congress can together take the last step, closing the chapter that has cast our relationship with Vietnam solely in terms of war.

As significantly, PNTR for Vietnam – together with that country's accession to the World Trade Organization ("WTO") – opens vast new possibilities for U.S. exporters. Vietnam has become one of the most important emerging markets in the world. In May, your administration, under the leadership of U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab, successfully concluded the bilateral terms of Vietnam's WTO entry, greatly enhancing U.S. access to Vietnam's market of 83 million people. The agreement reduces tariffs on many key U.S. agricultural and industrial exports, including beef, pork, dairy, fruits, information technology products, and motor vehicles and parts. It also provides U.S. exporters important new access to Vietnam's growing market for banking, insurance, express delivery, telecommunications, and other services.


Granting Vietnam PNTR would be a move of great historic and commercial value. Vietnam is on track to join the WTO by mid-October, in time for Vietnam to host this November's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation ("APEC") leader's summit in Hanoi as the world's newest WTO member. We believe that it is imperative for U.S. prestige in Asia that Congress, with your administration's active support, move to consider and pass this widely-supported legislation before you join APEC's twenty other leaders in Hanoi this November.

We stand ready to work closely with you in the coming weeks to accomplish this important mutual goal.

Most respectfully yours,



Senator Max Baucus



Senator Gordon H. Smith