

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert,
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

We urge you to call for swift action in the Ways and Means Committee and full floor consideration of H.R. 5602, a bill to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations ("PNTR") to Vietnam. We hope this will be accomplished without delay.

Vietnam is one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing countries in the world. With over 83 million people, Vietnam offers tremendous promise for U.S. farmers, workers, and businesses. We hear from our constituents that the bilateral agreement the administration struck last spring with Vietnam is among the most commercially significant trade agreements in years.

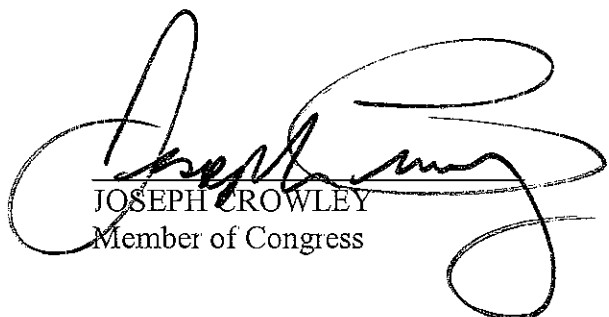
Vietnam agreed to significantly reduce tariffs on key U.S. agricultural exports like cotton, almonds, beef, grapes, and processed foods. It has agreed to open its market further to U.S. service providers, such as those in the banking, insurance, telecom, and express delivery industries. It has also agreed to terms even more strict than those the United States has required of other WTO applicants, particularly on important sanitary and phytosanitary ("SPS") measures. For instance, Vietnam will recognize the equivalence of the U.S. system for approving beef, poultry, and pork. It has also agreed to lift all BSE-related restrictions on U.S. beef.

U.S. businesses and agricultural producers – in our districts and elsewhere – are eager to take advantage of these terms, which only come into effect for them once Congress grants Vietnam PNTR and Vietnam joins the World Trade Organization. We are therefore eager for the Congress to approve legislation to do so.

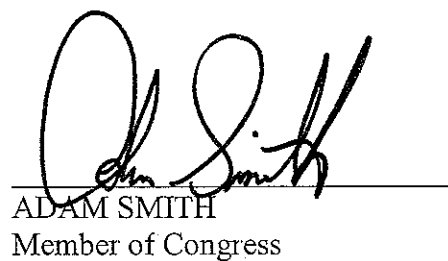
Time is running out to complete congressional consideration of the PNTR bill before President Bush travels to Hanoi in November for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation ("APEC") leader's summit. Failure to grant Vietnam PNTR before that time has the potential to undermine U.S. prestige in such an important region of the world.

We believe the Vietnam PNTR bill will command significant majorities on both sides of the aisle and urge its expeditious consideration. We stand ready to work with you on this important piece of legislation and look forward to successful congressional passage of the Vietnam PNTR bill.

Sincerely,



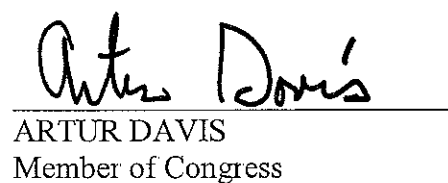
JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress




ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



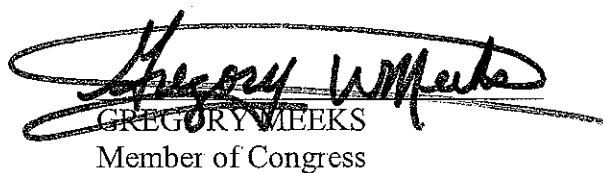
ELLEN TAUSCHER
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ARTUR DAVIS
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GREGORY MEEKS
Member of Congress



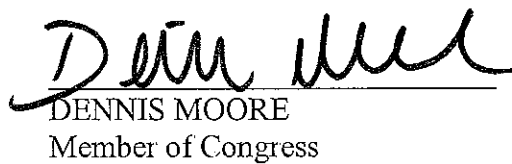
JAMES P. MORAN
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STEVE ISRAEL
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JANE HARMAN
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DENNIS MOORE
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JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress



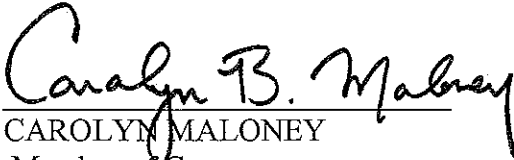
EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



JOHN TANNER
Member of Congress



DAN BOREN
Member of Congress



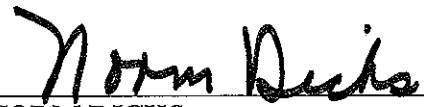
CAROLYN MALONEY
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NORM DICKS
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



JAY INSLEE
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