



August 1, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Frist:

By a vote yesterday of 18-0, the Senate Finance Committee favorably reported to the full Senate legislation (S. 3495) to provide permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) status to Vietnam. On behalf of the U.S. retail industry, the National Retail Federation (NRF) is writing to express our industry's strong support for Vietnam PNTR, and to urge the Senate to proceed to a vote on this important legislation as quickly as possible.

As you know, providing PNTR status to Vietnam is a critical component of Vietnam's accession to the World Trade Organization and to allowing U.S. farmers, manufacturers and service providers to realize the benefits of the bilateral trade agreement negotiated with Vietnam as part of its WTO accession process. With Vietnam now the fastest-growing economy in Southeast Asia, and its commitments in the bilateral agreement to reduce substantially tariff and non-tariff barriers to its market, the commercial benefits to U.S. business and workers are considerable.

The Finance Committee vote underscores the strong support this bill has in the Senate. As this legislation moves forward, you can count on our support to ensure its passage. We will also actively oppose any extraneous or controversial amendments that would force a renegotiation of or otherwise delay or jeopardize the bilateral agreement with Vietnam.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact NRF International Trade Counsel, Erik Autor, at (202) 626-8104 or at [autore@nrf.com](mailto:autore@nrf.com). Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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