

# KEY VOTE **ALERT!**



Congressional & Public Affairs  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

On behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, I write to express our strong support for the passage of H.R. 5602, "A bill to authorize the nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Vietnam."

U.S. negotiators concluded a stellar World Trade Organization (WTO) Accession package, creating economic opportunities for U.S. firms and farmers. The WTO Accession agreement will ensure significant market openings in agriculture, services, reduce tariffs on goods, and provide intellectual property protection broadly in the Vietnamese marketplace.

Vietnam is key trading partner for the U.S. in the Asian region and its entry into the WTO highlights the government's commitment to economic reform. Already, market reforms have produced solid economic results: two-way trade totaled more than \$7.8 billion in 2005, a five-fold increase since 2001. U.S. exports to Vietnam increased 24% between 2004 and 2005, reaching \$1.2 billion. Given these increases in trade, it is clear that American firms and farmers will gain and U.S. exports will increase from Vietnam joining the WTO as well.

To benefit from Vietnam's entry into the WTO, the U.S. must grant permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) to Vietnam. This step allows the U.S. to shape how Vietnam will join the rules-based trading system and will ensure that U.S. firms and farmers will be able to access the economic opportunities created by the WTO Accession agreement.

Granting PNTR also marks the completion of the process of normalizing relations between Washington and Hanoi begun more than a decade ago. This trade deal will bolster U.S. ties with Vietnam and signal that Washington remains committed to engaging the vibrant region of Southeast Asia.

**For these reasons, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages your support for final passage of H.R. 5602 and will consider votes on, or in relation to, H.R. 5602 for inclusion in our annual *How They Voted* scorecard.**

Sincerely,

R. Bruce Josten