

The Bush Administration's Framework for Trade Promotion Authority

The President's first legislative trade priority is U.S. Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). TPA is a critical part of the President's ability to negotiate good trade deals that will open markets, increase choices and lower costs for American farmers, workers, consumers, and businesses.

- Our trading partners need to know the President's negotiators speak for the entire United States. U.S. TPA tells other governments that there will be no more negotiation once they reach an agreement with the President. And it ensures close collaboration with Congress. The Executive Branch has not had TPA since 1994, and America's competitors have taken advantage in the interim.

Since taking office, the Bush Administration has listened to diverse viewpoints, and the Bush trade agenda represents broadly supported goals and principles.

- The President's trade agenda for 2001 is intended to further the benefits of expanding markets for American consumers, farmers, and workers, and to advance a forward strategy for freedom, sustainable development, and increased living standards.

TPA gives the President the flexibility to seize any trade opportunity, without compromising American sovereignty or slipping into protectionism. As the President has said, trade helps create the culture of liberty and the economic wealth needed to build and sustain support for better working conditions and improved environmental protection around the world.

- The TPA framework also reflects the fact that there is a range of trade-related opportunities beyond trade negotiations themselves to move governments around the world toward respect for worker rights and for the environment in connection with international trade. There is also a "toolbox" of illustrative measures that can be used in combination with trade negotiations to encourage countries to protect their environments and observe core labor standards.

This is a major step forward for those concerned about labor and environmental issues in trade.

- Both labor and environmental goals will be included in the list of principal U.S. negotiating objectives for future trade agreements, thus meeting a key request from the labor and environmental communities. The framework also seeks to increase transparency in international trade organizations and agreements, including opening the WTO to greater public scrutiny and allowing the public to observe dispute settlement proceedings -- two important NGO requests.

The longer we wait, the more we delay opportunities for our consumers, farmers, and businesses. The rest of the world is moving forward and signing trade deals that exclude the United States.

- U.S. exporters are losing business in Chile to Canadian firms because Canada has negotiated a free trade agreement with Chile and the U.S. has not. This is just one example, there are over 130 preferential trade agreements in the world today, and the U.S. is a party to only two.

Free Trade

- Free Trade is good for American workers, because when American workers compete on the world stage, American workers win. Over 12 million U.S. jobs depend on exports. Jobs supported by goods exports pay 13-18% more than the U.S. national average.
 - Free Trade is good for American farmers, because when the world buys America's top-quality food, American farmers win. One in three U.S. farm acres is planted for export, and 25% of gross farm income comes from exports.
 - Free Trade is good for American consumers and businesses, because when Americans can shop the world for the best prices and highest quality goods, American consumers and producers win. The NAFTA and Uruguay Round have provided an average annual benefit of \$1,300 to \$2,000 per family of four.
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