

Administration of Barack Obama, 2015

Statement on Congressional Passage of Trade Promotion Authority and Trade Adjustment Assistance Legislation

June 25, 2015

I applaud the Democrats and Republicans in Congress who came together to give the United States the chance to negotiate strong, high-standard agreements for free and fair trade that protect American workers and give our businesses the opportunity to compete. With bipartisan majorities, Congress also voted to expand vital support for thousands of American workers each year and to bolster economic relations between sub-Saharan Africa and the United States. Of course, we still have more work to do on behalf of our workers, which is why I'll continue to encourage Congress to pass robust trade enforcement legislation that will help us crack down on countries that break the rules. But this week's votes represent a much-needed win for hard-working American families.

As President, I've spent the last 6½ years fighting to grow our economy and strengthen our middle class, and that remains my top priority today. I believe we should make sure that the United States, and not countries like China, write the rules of our global economy. We should support more good jobs that pay good wages. We should level the playing field so that our workers have the chance to compete and win. That's what this new legislation will help us do, and I look forward to signing these bipartisan bills into law as soon as they reach my desk.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 2146; and H.R. 1295.

Categories: Statements by the President : Trade promotion authority and trade adjustment assistance legislation, Congressional passage.

Subjects: Africa : Trade with U.S . ; Business and industry : Global competitiveness; Commerce, international : Free and fair trade; Congress : Bipartisanship; Economy, national : Strengthening efforts; Employment and unemployment : Job training and assistance programs; Legislation, proposed : Defending Public Safety Employees' Retirement Act; Legislation, proposed : Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015.

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