



Ms. Tricia Van Orden
Executive Secretary
President's Export Council
Room 4043
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230
E-mail: tricia.vanorden@trade.gov

November 30, 2012

**Re: Federal Register/Volume 77, Number 224 Tuesday, November 20, 2012, Notices:
President's Export Council**

Dear Ms. Van Orden:

The undersigned poultry organizations appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in response to the notice in the *Federal Register* that requests private-sector comments with respect to recommendations of the President's Export Council (PEC) that relate to export expansion through streamlined Congressional consideration of trade legislation. We recognize the critical need for streamlined consideration of trade legislation, which is commonly known as Trade Promotion Authority.

Expanding exports of poultry, eggs, and related products is vitally important to the more than 35,000 family farms in the United States that are engaged in the production of these products. This year the U.S. exports of poultry, eggs, and related products will have a combined value of almost \$6.0 billion. Exports of these products provide for one out of five jobs in the industry, which directly employs nearly 1.4 million workers. It is an understatement, therefore, to state that exports are vital to the U.S. poultry and egg business.

For each 1 percent increase in the size of the U.S. poultry/egg industry, the U.S. economy creates at least 1,000 direct full-time jobs and about 5,000 jobs in total. USDA estimates that each \$1 billion in additional agricultural exports generates approximately 8,400 new U.S. jobs.

Furthermore, in the livestock and poultry sector, USDA reports the job-creating number at more than 12,000 workers.

Trade Promotion Authority has been an important element in the negotiation and subsequent congressional approval of all U.S. trade agreements since the 1960s. It permits the President to negotiate trade agreements based on strategic goals and objectives outlined in the legislation with ongoing congressional oversight. Congress may approve or disapprove resulting trade agreements but may not amend them.

This process has worked well over the years. Our negotiating partners understand that Congress is monitoring the negotiations on the basis of the goals and objectives in TPA. Negotiators across the table also know that any agreement they strike with U.S. negotiators will not be subject to congressional amendments or changes. If renegotiations were required it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to conclude a final package. Our negotiating partners realize they must put their best offer on the table and not withhold concessions out of fear that Congress will later demand that they do more.

With the most recent TPA expiring in 2007, the United States has entered into only one new trade negotiation (the TransPacific Partnership). Meanwhile, our aggressive competitors around the world have entered into, and concluded, literally hundreds of bilateral and regional trade agreements. Those agreements have put U.S. exports at a distinct disadvantage in the markets of the participating countries. Our products remain subject to higher and discriminatory tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers than the exports of the participants. To note the obvious, the TPP will ultimately require passage of streamlined trade legislation to ensure its final approval.

The United States can only reassert its traditional leadership role in international trade negotiations by enacting new TPA legislation. The undersigned poultry/egg organizations strongly support such legislation and urge that it be comprehensive to encompass TPP, a possible free trade agreement between the United States and the European Union, and all other trade agreements that may be negotiated over the life of the bill. We look forward to working with the President's Export Council and Congress to achieve timely and appropriate TPA legislation.

The National Chicken Council represents companies that produce and process over 95 percent of the chickens in the United States. With almost 20 percent of chicken production exported, it is vitally important that overseas sales continue to grow.

The USA Poultry & Egg Export Council represents companies that account for more than 95 percent of all exports of U.S. poultry and egg products.

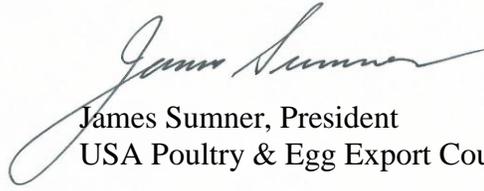
The National Turkey Federation is the national advocate for all segments of the U.S. turkey industry, providing services and conducting activities to increase demand for its members' products.

The U.S. Poultry & Egg Association represents the entire U.S. poultry and egg industry as an "all-feather" association. Membership includes producers and processors of broilers, turkeys, ducks, eggs, and breeding stock, as well as allied companies.

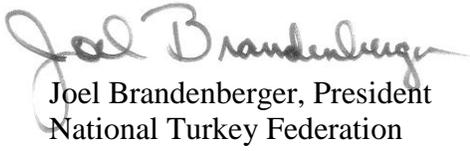
Sincerely,



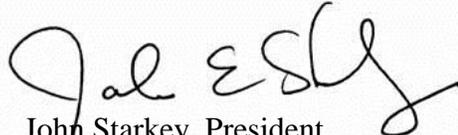
Mike Brown, President
National Chicken Council



James Sumner, President
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council



Joel Brandenberger, President
National Turkey Federation



John Starkey, President
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association