Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We welcome the establishment of the High Level Working Group on Transatlantic Jobs and Growth, and urge U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk and EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht to recommend, as soon as possible, ambitious steps to stimulate trade and investment between the United States and European Union.

The United States and European Union share a strong economic relationship, valued at over $4 trillion, the world's largest single commercial relationship. And European firms have invested over $1.5 trillion in the United States, directly employing millions of American workers.

Yet many steps can be taken to further strengthen this already robust relationship. Simply eliminating tariffs between the United States and European Union could increase U.S. goods exports to the EU by 17 percent over the next five years, potentially adding $180 billion to our combined economies. U.S. and EU levels of protection for our consumers, workers, investors and the environment are broadly similar, and closer cooperation between our regulators can improve efficiency and effectively address non-tariff barriers to trade. Steps to promote investment, services trade, and procurement can bring additional growth and jobs to both economies, as well as create opportunities for collaboration on trade issues of common concern.

We have a unique opportunity to use our deep economic relationship with our EU partners to create jobs and growth in both the United States and Europe, and set a high standard for trade and investment agreements moving forward. We look forward to working with you to take advantage of it.

Sincerely,

Erik Paulsen

ERIK PAULSEN
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal

RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress

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