



U.S. Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) (Fast Track Negotiating Authority)

Background: U.S. Trade Promotion Authority allows the executive branch to negotiate trade agreements in good faith without fear of further congressional intervention. Congress can only vote up or down, they may not make amendments. Though Presidents Nixon, Carter, Reagan and Bush had fast track negotiating authority; until the current authorization in 2002, it had not been renewed since 1994, despite concerted efforts by the previous administration.

The House of Representatives passed Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) by one vote on December 6, 2001. The Senate passed their version of TPA by a margin of 66-30 on May 23, 2002. The 2002 authorization for Trade Promotion Authority applied to agreements entered into before June 1, 2005. In June 2005 Congress renewed TPA, applying it to agreements entered into before July 1, 2007.

TPA has expired at this point. The Administration would like to see it renewed, but there is no inclination by the Democratic leadership in Congress to do so. Passing a trade agreement without the TPA restrictions on amendments in place, is possible but extremely improbable.

USDEC position: USDEC supports renewing Trade Promotion Authority in order to continue to advance the pursuit of balanced global trade and beneficial new export opportunities.