

## **Join Letter to President Opposing Inclusion of Japan in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Until They Open Their Market**

Dear Colleague,

Japan recently announced its interest in joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free trade agreement that includes nations on both sides of the Pacific. Currently, the United States is one of nine nations negotiating and working to structure the TPP. The Asia-Pacific region accounts for nearly 60% of global GDP and 50% of international trade.

Japan joining the TPP will complicate the existing negotiations and undermine the agreement currently underway. While Japan is one of our closest allies, they have a history of discriminatory trade practices. Japan maintains significant barriers to U.S. goods and services, including a number of agriculture products, insurance, drugs, medical devices, and especially autos. Japan remains the most closed auto market among developed nations; Japan ships more than 200 cars to the U.S. for every one car we export there. Recently, they implemented a “Cash for Clunkers” program that used technical barriers to severely limit the eligibility of U.S. autos.

Too often, the U.S. opens its markets to foreign competition without reciprocal access. While we play by the rules, other countries use technical barriers or other techniques like currency manipulation to game international trade laws.

American workers are the best in the world and we must to allow them to compete on a level playing field. Allowing Japan to join TPP negotiations while they maintain unfair trade barriers is a step in the wrong direction, and would remove a powerful incentive for them to open their market.

I urge you to join me in writing President Obama to ask that he oppose including Japan in the TPP. For more information or to sign this letter please contact David Weinberg in my office at 225-5802 or by email at [david.weinberg@mail.house.gov](mailto:david.weinberg@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Gary C. Peters  
Member of Congress

November XX, 2011

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) presents an opportunity for the United States to gain increased market access to the Asia-Pacific region. Breaking down foreign trade barriers and boosting exports to this region has the potential to create jobs here at home and help drive economic growth.

As you know, Japan has recently expressed interest in joining the TPP. Hopefully, this is a sign that Japan is committed to ending the significant barriers to trade between the United States and Japan. American goods and services face serious market access barriers in Japan, including a number of agriculture products, insurance, drugs, medical devices, and especially autos. Japan remains the most closed auto market among developed nations; Japan ships more than 200 cars to the U.S. for every one car we export there.

Many of these barriers are deeply embedded in Japan, and they continue to be propagated by the Japanese government. Recently, Japan instituted the Eco-friendly Automobile Purchase Program, similar to our successful Cash for Clunkers program. The open, inclusive, and transparent U.S. program developed and approved by Congress specifically allowed all global automakers to have vehicles eligible for vehicle purchases incentives, including Japanese automakers, so as to comply with international trade rules. The Japanese program was instituted in a discriminatory fashion; by using EPA “city” mileage ratings instead of the more accurate EPA “combined city/highway” mileage ratings, Japan severely limited the availability of U.S. auto models that qualified for this program.

Too often, the U.S. opens its markets to foreign competition without reciprocal access. While we play by the rules, other countries use technical barriers or other techniques like currency manipulation to game international trade laws. American workers are the best in the world and we must allow them to compete on a level playing field.

The TPP represents a chance to form a new template for all future trade agreements, and adding Japan to this agreement while they maintain unacceptable barriers to American goods and services would be a step in the wrong direction. It would also remove a powerful incentive for them to change their discriminatory trade practices. Japan must show that they are serious about opening their market before the United States grants additional trade benefits. We therefore urge you to oppose Japan’s inclusion in TPP negotiations at this time. We look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,