

Coalition of New England Companies For Trade

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Extension of Trade Promotion Authority

Presidential Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) expired during the 110th Congress. TPA (formerly called fast track trade negotiating authority), which allows the President to negotiate trade agreements under expedited Congressional approval is unlikely to be reinstated during the 111th Congress.

How TPA Works:

TPA provides for close collaboration between the President and Congress in opening foreign markets for U.S. goods and services. It gives the Executive branch specific Congressional guidance on objectives to seek in trade negotiations. TPA also sets detailed notice and consultation requirements for the Administration to follow to ensure it has the benefit of advice from the Congress, the private sector, and the public before and during negotiations. TPA establishes a special Congressional Oversight Group through which Members of Congress provide timely advice to the Administration on trade negotiations and receive regular briefings from the United States Trade Representative on proposed U.S. negotiating positions. In addition, the Administration's trade negotiators brief and seek advice from Congressional committees before each negotiating round. This process ensures close coordination and regular exchange of information between the two branches.