

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3219

December 20, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Schumer, McConnell, and McCarthy,

As strong supporters of American workers, we urge Congress to immediately reauthorize Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), expand TAA eligibility, increase funding, and improve the TAA for Communities and TAA for Community Colleges programs. TAA is critical not only to helping American workers navigate changes in global trade, but also to maintaining American manufacturing power.

More than 2.5 million American workers have participated in TAA since Congress established the current program in the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. § 2271 *et seq.*). With successive reauthorizations in 1981, 1988, 1993, 2002, 2009, 2011, and 2015, Congress has gradually broadened program eligibility and improved outcomes for participants. By helping affected workers obtain the skills, credentials, resources, and support necessary to take on new jobs, TAA now assists almost 100,000 workers annually.

A recent Department of Labor (DOL) report underscores the positive impact of TAA on American workers affected by import competition.¹ In the years before the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 75 percent of TAA participants obtained new employment within 6 months of completing the program. Another study shows that TAA graduates had \$50,000 higher cumulative earnings ten years after the program than similar displaced workers who did not participate.²

¹ “Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers Program, FY 2021 Annual Report,” Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/tradeact/pdfs/AnnualReport21.pdf>

² Hyman, Benjamin, *Can Displaced Labor Be Retrained? Evidence from Quasi-Random Assignment to Trade Adjustment Assistance*, University of Chicago, 2018, https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5acbd8e736099b27ba4cfb36/t/60b41137c81f1253bd09e91c/1622413626875/Hyman_TAA_Nov2018.pdf

TAA expired on July 1, 2022, at which point the DOL's Employment and Training Administration stopped accepting new applications and began phasing out activities. For more than five months, displaced American workers have been unable to apply for the benefits upon which they have been able to depend for nearly half a century. It is critical that Congress reauthorize TAA as soon as possible and make important enhancements to the program in the process.

Lastly, the U.S. economy has added more than 750,000 manufacturing jobs since January 2021, many of them in emerging industries such as semiconductor production and green technology. Growth in these industries, coupled with a generational investment in infrastructure, will demand tens of thousands of skilled workers. In addition to the program's clear benefits for affected American workers, TAA has an important role to play in supplying skilled labor for America's changing manufacturing sector.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Tom Suozzi
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

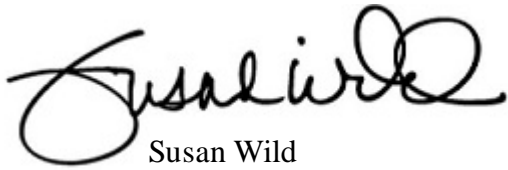
Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

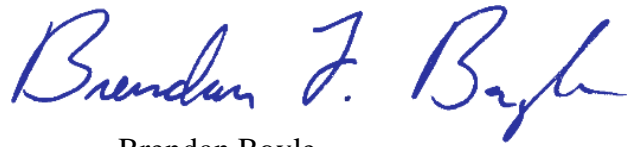
Al Green
Member of Congress

Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



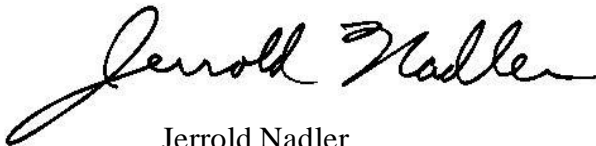
Brendan Boyle
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

/s/

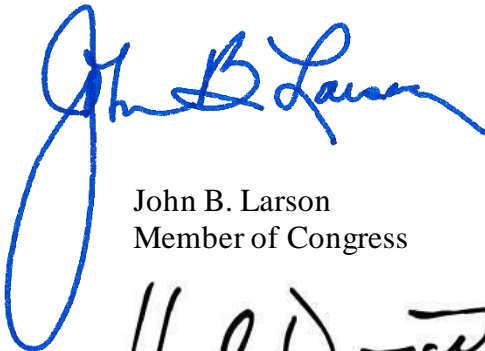
André Carson
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



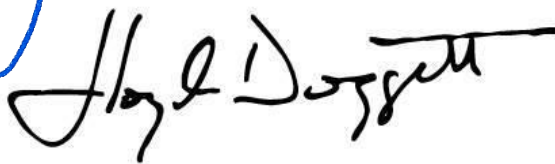
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

/s/

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Angie Craig

Angie Craig
Member of Congress