

**Aric Newhouse**

Senior Vice President  
Policy and Government Relations

December 10, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support the conference report to H.R. 644, Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

Outdated customs and border policies are costing manufacturers billions of dollars a year in increased operating costs and unfair competition, while also preventing manufacturers from moving their products in and out of the United States efficiently. Existing customs rules have not kept pace with the growth and changes in trade or fully embraced technological advances, leading to bottlenecks at the border that impede the just-in-time manufacturing process. Manufacturers are also harmed by the growing problem of evasion of U.S. trade remedy rules, intellectual property theft overseas, and the failure of our trading partners to fully enforce their trade agreement commitments. Small businesses face substantial challenges in reaching new markets overseas as well.

The conference report to H.R. 644 will address each of these important issues by providing much-needed guidance and statutory authority to automate and modernize U.S. customs operations to eliminate red tape and reduce trade delays that affect manufacturers. This legislation implements a strong new mechanism, the Enforcing Orders and Reducing Customs Evasion (ENFORCE) Act, to hold the U.S. government accountable for the enforcement of U.S. trade rules when evasion arises. It will also create new tools to improve enforcement of intellectual property rights overseas and trade agreement commitments. The legislation also reauthorizes the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) program to provide important matching funds that help small businesses advance their export opportunities overseas.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on the conference report to H.R. 644, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 114th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse