Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations write to urge your support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We ask that you vote in favor of legislation implementing TPP. This year’s back-to-school season reminds us that, if TPP goes into effect, it will provide significant benefits to American families each year by reducing the costs of new school clothes, shoes, backpacks, athletic equipment and other school necessities for their children.

The TPP, once entered into, will join twelve Pacific Rim economies, including the United States, in a regional trade agreement representing 800 million consumers and over 40 percent of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP). For the U.S. footwear, apparel, and travel goods industries – which still face high tariffs and other trade barriers across TPP countries – TPP represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reduce costs and open new markets for U.S. brands and retailers. TPP will help our companies and brands successfully compete at home and in TPP countries bringing real benefit by reducing costs and returning greater value to our customers.

Duty savings for our industry in the first year alone are expected to exceed more than $1 billion as the United States and other TPP countries reduce tariffs and eliminate other barriers to U.S.-made and U.S. branded exports. These savings will grow each year as TPP provisions are phased-in and as new investment follows.

U.S. consumers will be among the top beneficiaries. When fully phased-in, TPP will remove more than $2.8 billion of duties that are currently charged on U.S. imports of footwear, apparel, and travel goods. These savings will be passed along to U.S. consumers in a number of ways, including price breaks and investments in product and materials innovation.

Moreover, our industries account for over four million American jobs, all of which will benefit from our increased competitiveness due to TPP as we reach more customers at home and in other TPP countries. Our workers will compete on a more level playing field if TPP goes into effect. As we grow our businesses at home and abroad, we will create new opportunities to employ more Americans throughout our supply chains – in our distribution centers, design houses, retail stores, and company and regional headquarters.

Finally, our companies will continue to work to ensure the safety and empowerment of the workers who make our products, and to source our products in a sustainable manner. Accordingly, we support TPP’s strong and innovative environmental and labor provisions that: complement the work we are currently doing; align with our companies’ values; and further level the playing field for our products.

On behalf of our customers, our workers, our partners, and our suppliers – all of who stand to benefit from TPP – we urge you to vote yes on legislation implementing TPP.