

[Trade Promotion Authority means jobs](#)

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The vote on Trade Promotion Authority in Congress is imminent. So, why should Trade Promotion Authority and its benefits matter to you?

The reason is because Washington state and its working families benefit directly and substantially from international trade. Smart, TPA-enabled expansion of that trade here in Washington stands to grow payrolls and paychecks and keep more money in your pockets. The facts bear that out:

R International trade creates and supports more than one in five Washington jobs — a full 915,000 in companies, on farms, in factories, and at the headquarters of Washington’s globally engaged firms.

R In 2013, Washington companies sold their products in 212 international markets, exporting an estimated \$73.8 billion in goods and \$26.5 billion in services.

R Lower-cost imports help to keep prices down while increasing consumer choices. U.S. trade and investment policies can thus save Washington families thousands of dollars per year.

As a former trade negotiator and now a senior manager at UPS, I advocate for the benefits of trade agreements for businesses and workers across the country. Detractors say there is too much secrecy around trade negotiations, but Trade Promotion Authority will give Congress unprecedented new oversight and input to the trade negotiation process, as well as a final up-or-down say on whether any trade agreement is approved.

UPS was founded in Seattle in 1907, and so our ties with Washington have always been close. In fact, we employ more than 6,000 people here in Washington, and nearly 400,000 people worldwide, serving 9.4 million customers daily in more than 220 countries and territories.

Trade Promotion Authority enables trade agreements to be passed, which allows Washington businesses the opportunity to meet consumer demands to ship products to and from Washington anywhere in the world.

Let’s look at just one sector that’s critical to the state’s economy: pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Most people don’t think about trade and those products together.



Laura Lane is president of UPS Global Public Affairs and writes on behalf of the Alliance for Healthcare Competitiveness.

Washington is home to a range of companies that are developing world-class products to bring innovation in pharmaceuticals and medical devices to every corner of the world. For example, SonoSite is the world leader in delivering advanced ultrasound technology to patients and institutions that would otherwise have no access to imaging due to social conditions, remote locations, or lack of funds. And local companies like Presage and Juno Therapeutics are leading the race to find new cures for cancer in the pharmaceutical sector.

These are just a few examples of the many innovative organizations in Washington with soaring global demand, but are often limited by trade barriers and red tape. Our ability to reach and satisfy consumer demand can only be realized if those barriers are broken down and new markets opened through robust trade agreements that Trade Promotion Authority will help facilitate.

Through Trade Promotion Authority, we all stand to reap the benefits of increased transparency, regulatory harmonization and the ability to move life-saving products from companies in Washington across borders to reach health care providers and their patients more efficiently.

Trade Promotion Authority will help to unlock further potential that will ultimately spur economic growth, drive medical innovation and improve the health of people worldwide.

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