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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 12, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

I applaud your efforts to create good-paying jobs. Your proposals to rebuild our nation's infrastructure, increase enforcement of our trade laws, expand access to education, and reward businesses that hire new workers – including both veterans and the long-term unemployed – are to be lauded. These efforts will create real jobs.

However, I believe these efforts are at cross-purposes with much of your Administration's trade agenda. I would ask that you pursue a trade agenda that is consistent with your job creation goals. Such an agenda must be based on the evidence of past trade deals.

Now that Congress is poised to approve the three trade agreements negotiated in large part by the Bush Administration, I am writing to request you change course on trade policy and align our trade policy with the interests of American workers and American manufacturers. Specifically, I request that your administration apply benchmarks for the implementation of these three Free Trade Agreements and consider legislation I have introduced on reciprocal market access as you negotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Repeatedly, Presidents in both parties have promised our nation that free trade agreements – be it China Permanent Normal Trade Relations or the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) – would create jobs in the United States. Time and again, these promises have been empty as good-paying manufacturing jobs have been lost.

That is why I would ask that do something that your predecessors failed to do: reorient our trade policy so that we take steps to ensure that future trade agreements live up to the promises made on their behalf.

To that end, I would respectfully ask that your Administration, over the next two years, work with Congress to analyze the impact of these trade agreements on net domestic job creation, and apply benchmarks to measure actual import penetration. This is especially important with respect to the South Korean market so that the data might inform U.S. policymakers as they consider the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Further, I urge you to consider supporting legislation, *The Reciprocal Market Access Act*, which would instruct our trade negotiators to eliminate foreign market barriers before reducing U.S.

tariffs. This bill, which I am introducing in the Senate and which has been introduced in the House by Representative Louise Slaughter, would also provide the U.S. Trade Representative with enforcement authority to reinstate tariffs if a foreign government fails to honor its commitment to remove barriers to products made in the United States. And finally, the legislation instructs the International Trade Commission to conduct an assessment of the impact of a prospective trade agreement on market opportunities and barriers for U.S. products or services.

American workers have seen too many trade agreements that fail to provide the jobs promised by their boosters. I would ask that you refrain from negotiating any more agreements based on the failed approach to trade policy that has decimated our manufacturing base and left us ill-equipped to face the challenges of the global economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator