



January 10, 2012

The Honorable Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA REGULATIONS.GOV

RE: Construction Equipment Industry Comments on Canada's Expression of Interest in the Proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement (FR Doc No: 2011-31317)

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers strongly support Canada entering into consultations toward joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. AED is the trade association representing independent, authorized distributors of construction, mining, forestry, agricultural, and industrial equipment; AEM's members are leading equipment manufacturers. Both associations represent U.S. and Canadian companies.

The U.S. and Canadian economies are highly integrated. The United States exports to Canada three times what it exports to all other TPP countries combined. No country is closer to the United States when it comes to trade, investment, and regulatory practices. For those reasons, keeping Canada out of the TPP could harm both our economies and result in significant inefficiencies, in particular, for our members with operations on both sides of the border.

The long-term purpose of the TPP discussions is to set high standards for open commerce, fair trade, and investment between nations of the Asia-Pacific region. Allowing Canada to join the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Peru, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Brunei in the TPP negotiations will help better achieve a high-quality, next generation free trade agreement that will level traditional tariff and "behind-the-border" barriers on goods, liberalize services and investment, ensure greater regulatory coherence, and strengthen intellectual property protections.

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For the foregoing reasons, we urge you to expeditiously negotiate Canada's entrance into the TPP discussions.

Sincerely,



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