



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**The Secretary of Commerce**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

February 27, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Governor of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

Exports are critical to economic growth and job creation in communities across the country and across South Carolina. With this in mind, I want to make sure you saw the Department of Commerce data we have released on South Carolina exports. With 95 percent of the world's consumers living outside the United States, opening more markets to "Made in America" goods and services is fundamental to our Nation's competitiveness, job creation, and the economic security of our families.

The data found in the attached fact sheet demonstrates the important role that trade and exports have played in America's and South Carolina's economic recovery. In order to build on that momentum, Congress must pass bipartisan trade promotion legislation, which will allow the Administration to negotiate new trade agreements that increase accountability and high standards, uphold our values, and open new markets to American goods and services.

For the past 40 years, Congress has enacted Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) type laws to set high-standard objectives and priorities for U.S. trade negotiators and establish a process for consulting with Congress and the public. In so doing, Congress has guided both Democratic and Republican Presidents in pursuing trade agreements that support U.S. jobs, eliminate barriers to U.S. exports, and set rules to level the playing field for U.S. companies, farmers, ranchers, and workers.

The regional trade agreements under negotiation now, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, cover markets that accounted for 62 percent of U.S. goods exports in 2014, supporting an estimated 4.2 million U.S. jobs in 2013. TPA will allow these agreements to become a reality, encouraging even greater U.S. exports to these markets, as well as the higher-paying jobs associated with such exports, by helping reduce trade barriers and red tape with our trading partners.

I recognize that states are driving export growth and that you are an important partner in promoting trade. I encourage you to lend your voice to the importance of trade in South Carolina and across the country as we continue growing our economy and creating jobs. For questions, please contact William A. Ramos, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at [wramos@doc.gov](mailto:wramos@doc.gov) and (202) 482-2749.

Sincerely,

Penny Pritzker