

OPEN LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE TPP negotiations

3 December 2012

Rt Hon John Key
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Prime Minister

We, the leaders of major New Zealand companies and leading business organisations, write to underline the importance of international trade and investment for New Zealand and to express our support for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations now underway amongst eleven APEC economies.

Trade is New Zealand's life blood. Trade rules uphold fairness in the global economy and enhance the ability of New Zealand companies to do business internationally. For this reason we welcome negotiators from the TPP economies who are meeting in Auckland this week and we commend them for their efforts to conclude a future agreement which should bring benefits for all member economies.

We are conscious that TPP is a work in progress and that judgement about the final outcome needs to be withheld until negotiators have finished their work. Our aim in writing is to endorse the effort now underway and to outline our conviction that this effort should continue in the interests of building a more prosperous and sustainable Asia Pacific region and of ensuring that business can play its full part in the region's continuing recovery and future economic growth.

We are aware that the negotiation poses challenges for New Zealand policy settings in a number of areas. The same is true for other participating economies. We know the negotiation is complex. We have confidence that Trade Minister Groser and his officials will seek solutions which meet New Zealand's national interests. We note that the treaty ratification process requires there to be consultation on the negotiated outcome before its adoption by Parliament.

We see great advantages for New Zealand arising from a future agreement that is high quality, comprehensive and ambitious, one that eliminates trade barriers, lowers the cost of doing business and makes improvements to the way regional supply chains can link producers and consumers in the region. In particular we see value from an effort to create an agreement which meets business and wider needs and reflects the way business is being done today and will be done in the future. This will assist economic growth and job creation in New Zealand.

We stand ready to assist negotiators in this effort and to participate with other members of civil society in a dialogue about how TPP can contribute to what is best for our country, its people and the people of the wider region to which we belong.

Rt Hon James Bolger, ONZ
Chairman, NZ US Council

Graeme Harrison, KNZM
Chairman, NZ International Business Forum

www.tradeworks.org.nz



FOR AND ON BEHALF OF:

Mark Adamson
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Michael Barnett
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Lead/Managing Director
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