

PFI Urges Congress to Ratify TPP Agreement

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The Pet Food Institute (PFI), whose members make 98% of all U.S. pet food products, joined more than 220 food and agriculture organizations for a letter submitted April 11, 2016, urging U.S. House and Senate leaders to take quick action to ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement.

The TPP Agreement reduces tariff and non-tariff barriers for a wide range of U.S. exports to the Asia-Pacific region and supports the country's global and economic competitiveness. The letter notes that "the TPP is critical to the livelihood of the U.S. food and agriculture sector," and that it "will help level the playing field for U.S. exports" and support domestic job growth.

Pet food makers are an important part of American food and agricultural production. Each year, PFI members purchase millions of tons of meat, poultry, seafood, grains and other agricultural inputs to produce safe, nutritious foods for cats and dogs. In addition to keeping America's cats and dogs well nourished, pet food companies employ tens of thousands of people across the country. Domestic sales of dog and cat food reached \$21.4 billion in 2014, and U.S. exports reached \$1.3 billion in 2015. The improved access to developed and emerging markets that the TPP Agreement provides will ensure U.S. pet food makers can excel in the competitive Asia-Pacific region.

PFI urges Congress to support U.S. economic and export growth by ratifying the TPP Agreement as soon as possible.