

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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June 9, 2015

The Honorable Chairman Paul Ryan
Committee in Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan,

Thank you for working with me on our shared concern regarding the possibility of trade agreements obligating the U.S. to grant access or expand access to visas. I have fought for the constitutional power of Congress to control immigration policy for a long time. Now as we approach consideration of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), Congress must jealously guard its prerogatives on immigration.

That's why I am writing you to request language that I believe will effectively restrain trade agreements entered into under TPA. My goal with this request is to reach our mutual desire to keep immigration out of trade agreements. In furtherance of this goal, I request you include a limitation in TPA:

"To ensure that trade agreements do not require changes to the immigration laws of the United States or obligate the United States to grant access or expand access to visas issued under 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)."

This language tells the executive branch that they cannot negotiate changes in our immigration law or use our visa programs as a negotiating tool. I am very appreciative of your hard work on TPA and your good faith efforts to reach a satisfactory conclusion on this language. With this language, I can support TPA and we can make a stand to protect the power of Congress.

Steve King



Member of Congress