

This week, I participated in a Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade hearing on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), an agreement under negotiation to lower trade barriers and open up markets in numerous countries along the Pacific rim. You can watch my quick update from my desk regarding the hearing [here](#) :



The U.S. trade ambassador for Asia updated members on the agreement's progress, noting the intention to complete it next year and that several additional countries are interested in joining beyond the current nine members. Like our recently passed agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, the effort to secure an agreement with TPP countries recognizes that 95% of the world's consumers live outside our nation—a fact that makes trade critical to our economy.

As the negotiations continue, I am committed to working with the Administration to ensure that the potential agreement benefits sectors of the economy that are critical to California, including agriculture, technology and biopharmaceuticals. I am hopeful that the United States will be successful in expanding market access for U.S. goods and services and addressing non-tariff trade barriers that undermine fair competition. If negotiations are successful, the potential TPP agreement would allow our nation to more easily sell products to the vast populations in Asia's growing markets. While much work remains to be done, I am encouraged by the commitment of TPP member countries to complete an ambitious, win-win agreement next year so that our businesses can expand exports and create more jobs here at home.

