Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) Opportunities for West Virginia

T-TIP stands to be an ambitious, comprehensive, and high-standard trade and investment agreement that offers significant benefits for U.S. companies and workers through eliminating existing trade barriers and better enabling U.S. companies and workers to compete. T-TIP will provide significant new opportunities for U.S. industry, as approximately one-fifth of all U.S. goods and services exports go to the European Union (EU). In 2013, every billion dollars of U.S. exports supported 5,590 jobs. In that same year, U.S. goods and services exports to the EU supported an estimated 2.5 million U.S. jobs.

Key Opportunities for West Virginia’s Industries

Minerals and Fuels

The minerals and fuels sector accounted for 77 percent of West Virginia’s total exports to the EU between 2012 and 2014. During that same period minerals and fuels exports to the EU from West Virginia averaged $2.4 billion annually. The EU currently has tariffs on minerals and fuels as high as 8 percent. West Virginia companies would likely benefit from reduced tariffs in this sector as a result of the agreement.

Chemicals

The chemicals sector accounted for 14 percent of West Virginia’s total exports to the EU between 2012 and 2014. During that same period chemical product exports to the EU from West Virginia averaged $425 million annually. The EU currently has tariffs on chemical products as high as 6.5 percent. West Virginia companies would likely benefit from reduced tariffs in this sector as a result of the agreement. Chemical exports could also benefit from T-TIP provisions that promote regulatory efficiencies and reduce regulatory compliance costs.

Metals and Ores

The metals and ores sector accounted for 1 percent of West Virginia’s total exports to the EU between 2012 and 2014. During that same period metals and ores exports to the EU from West Virginia averaged $47 million annually. The EU currently has tariffs on metals and ores as high as 10 percent. West Virginia companies would likely benefit from reduced tariffs in this sector as a result of the agreement.

West Virginia U.S. Export Assistance Centers: www.export.gov/WestVirginia
Exports Sustain Thousands of West Virginia Businesses including SMEs

A total of 1,121 companies exported from West Virginia locations in 2013. Of those, 846 (75.5 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees. Small and medium-sized firms generated nearly one-third (30.9 percent) of West Virginia's total exports of merchandise in 2013.

West Virginia exported $3.1 billion annually in goods to the EU (2012-2014 average). During this period, 34 percent of West Virginia’s total goods exports went to the EU.

The EU's tariff elimination as part of T-TIP would provide new market access that could benefit West Virginia's exports. Exports from West Virginia could also benefit from efforts in T-TIP to achieve new market access commitments in services and investment, improve the regulatory environment, and establish global best practices.

How Past FTAs Have Benefitted West Virginia

The United States currently has free trade agreements in force with 20 countries, which accounted for $2.7 billion (36 percent) of West Virginia’s exports in 2014. During the past 10 years (2005-2014), exports from West Virginia to these markets grew by 92 percent, with NAFTA, Morocco, Korea, Australia, and CAFTA-DR showing the largest dollar growth during this period.

In Their Own Words: T-TIP Comments

**The American Farm Bureau Federation**

“The American Farm Bureau Federation, a U.S. general farm organization, supports efforts to increase agricultural trade flows and remove several major impediments to this flow that currently exist between the United States and the European Union.”

**Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA)**

“Our member companies manufacture a diverse set of products including power transmission and distribution equipment, lighting systems, factory automation and control systems, and medical diagnostic imaging systems. Saving time and money not having to pay import duties could provide for notable efficiencies and re-programing of company resources into more productive activities.”

**National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)**

“Our member companies manufacture a diverse set of products including power transmission and distribution equipment, lighting systems, factory automation and control systems, and medical diagnostic imaging systems. Saving time and money not having to pay import duties could provide for notable efficiencies and re-programing of company resources into more productive activities.”

For more information, please see [www.trade.gov/fta](http://www.trade.gov/fta).

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