



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

November 21, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman, Committee on Finance
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, Ways and Means
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Chairman Wyden, and Chairman Neal,

The BlueGreen Alliance unites America's labor unions and environmental organizations to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy. Our partnership is firm in its belief that Americans don't have to choose between a good job and a clean environment—we can and must have both. As the Senate and House focuses on the final work period of this Congress, we urge you to swiftly bring up the reauthorization of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

Trade Adjustment Assistance is a lifeline for workers displaced from their jobs by unfair trade policies, offering trade-impacted workers a variety of supports including income support, a health coverage tax credit, and training, education, and job search assistance.

Congress allowed this crucial program to lapse on June 30, 2022. Until Congress reauthorizes the program, the Department of Labor cannot process any additional petitions for TAA assistance. This means that thousands of workers do not have access to the program's support. In 2021 alone, the Department of Labor certified 801 petitions for trade adjustment assistance, covering an estimated 107,000 workersⁱ. Over 40,000 workers have missed out on TAA benefits since the program lapsed, a number that will continue to grow if Congress does not reauthorize TAA.ⁱⁱ

Congress should use this opportunity not just to reauthorize the program, but to expand and strengthen it, with enhancements like:

- Streamlining the application process;
- Establishing a tax credit for child care;

- Providing coverage for workers who lose their jobs due to import restrictions of U.S.-made goods; and
- Extending TAA to public service workers.

We urge leadership to swiftly reauthorize and strengthen TAA to support trade impacted workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Walsh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Walsh
Executive Director
BlueGreen Alliance

ⁱ U.S. Department of Labor, *Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers Program: FY 2021 Annual Report*. Available online:

https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/tradeact/pdfs/AnnualReport21.pdf?link_id=5&can_id=6057a29c8943d196949bad0a6d3d0523&source=email-were-not-giving-up-3&email_referrer=email_1616888&email_subject=were-not-giving-up

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Labor, *Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers (TAA) Program: Impacts of Program Termination*, September 27, 2022. Available online:

https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/tradeact/pdfs/TAA_Termination_Fact_Sheet.pdf