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No Time for Obama to Stall on Trade Agenda

While the rest of the world is lowering trade barriers, the Obama Administration fails to make progress.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As President Obama prepares to travel to Asia this week, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) urges the Administration to move forward with trade deals in Asia in order to stimulate the economy by boosting exports and reject any policies that result in increased prices for American consumers.

“International trade has long been a backbone of both America's economy and foreign policy. But recently, politics has gotten in its way. While Asian nations have accelerated their efforts to lower barriers to trade, the United States has remained idle,” stated Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, **“Free trade opens new markets for America’s exporters and promotes new economic opportunities for American workers employed by exporters. Obama’s refusal to set a comprehensive trade agenda that fosters a competitive market free from protectionist interference has resulted in a missed opportunity to speed up the economic recovery.”**

Trade agreements across Asia and the Pacific have essentially created a large free trade area rivaling the size and buying power of the United States and Europe. According to the Wall Street Journal, there are 168 free trade agreements in effect in Asia today, with the U.S. involved in two—Singapore and Australia.

“The benefits of free trade with Asian nations will have an important and lasting positive impact on the economies and people of both regions,” continued Norquist, **“But Obama is giving Americans reason to believe he is concerned with little more than the well-being of his liberal Washington policies.”**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org.

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