



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Petro, 202-296-5860, [petro@ced.org](mailto:petro@ced.org)  
Chris Dreibelbis, 202-296-5860, [chris.dreibelbis@ced.org](mailto:chris.dreibelbis@ced.org)

**BUSINESS GROUP SUPPORTS PAIRING TRADE AUTHORITY  
WITH WAGE AND HEALTH ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS**  
*Calls For Swift Passage of Trade Promotion Authority and Rejection of the Dayton-Craig  
Amendment in Conference*

**Washington, D.C., May 22, 2002** – The Committee for Economic Development (CED) today reiterated its strong support for granting the President Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) and addressing labor concerns as a means of achieving broader support for free trade. “Trade Promotion Authority is vital now in order for the United States to sustain economic growth over the long term and to maintain its global leadership role,” said CED President, Charles Kolb. “At the same time, we must recognize that there are some legitimate concerns, particularly those relating to the workforce and the environment, that must be addressed through a bipartisan dialogue and by establishing a broad national consensus for liberalized trade,” he added.

While supportive of the underlying legislation, CED expressed its opposition to the Dayton-Craig amendment, which would allow portions of trade agreements to be considered outside of the “fast-track” process. “Dayton-Craig must be dropped before it hits the President’s desk, or else it will provide the President ‘fast track’ authority in name only and fatally undermine trade negotiations,” stated Mr. Kolb.

Dayton-Craig threatens to damage the promising compromise achieved on the core bill. The agreement reached in the Senate to consider Trade Promotion Authority along with a package of wage and health assistance for workers represents significant progress and is largely consistent with recommendations CED made last year in its policy statement, *From Protest to Progress: Addressing Labor and Environmental Conditions Through Freer Trade*.

The Senate legislation also promises to provide a framework for strengthening international labor and environmental standards without seriously compromising our interests in trade negotiations, as CED has also urged. CED has recommended taking incremental steps, strengthening international standard-setting organizations such as the International Labor Organization and the United Nations Environmental Program, and relying on monetary fines, not trade sanctions, to enforce standards.

CED is hopeful that the accord reached in the Senate, minus the Dayton-Craig amendment, can serve as the basis for galvanizing bipartisan support for free trade and allaying fears concerning the social effects of increased global economic integration. Attempts to weaken trade authority will serve only to intensify opposition to free trade and globalization, and impair U.S. leadership.

*CED is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of more than 200 business leaders and university presidents. Celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, CED has been in the forefront of addressing many of the nation's most pressing economic and social issues. Among CED's earliest accomplishments was building support among the U.S. business community for the Marshall Plan. CED has been dedicated to sustaining America's lead position in fostering global economic development and cooperation. CED promotes policies to produce increased productivity and living standards, greater and more equal opportunity for every citizen, and an improved quality of life for all.*

For a copy of CED's trade report, please visit [www.ced.org](http://www.ced.org). Or to set up an interview with Charles Kolb, please call Chris Dreibelbis at 202/296-5860.