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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

## **New Dem Trade Task Force Urges for Swift Action on EU Trade Agreement and Pushes for Completion of TPP**

**Washington, D.C.** – Today, leaders of the New Democrat Coalition Trade, Infrastructure and Manufacturing Task Force, **Representatives Rick Larsen (WA-02), Gregory Meeks (NY-05), and Cedric Richmond (LA-02)**, released the following statement after the President announced the Administration's intent to start negotiations with the European Union (EU) on a comprehensive trade agreement:

“New Democrats applaud the Administration's commitment to complete the Trans Pacific Partnership and begin work on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the European Union. Our relationship with the EU already supports more than 7 million jobs and this agreement has the potential to add more than 13 million new American jobs. As strong advocates for a proactive trade agenda, we urge the Administration to act swiftly on these trade agreements across both the Pacific and Atlantic to bring more quality jobs to the workforce and maintain U.S. leadership in the global economy.”

Our coalition believes trade must level playing fields with our partners, ensure that America gets what it bargained for, promote American exports, and eliminate unfair barriers for Americans trying to sell their goods and services overseas.

Last Congress, the New Democrat Coalition met with ambassadors from the countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The 16th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations will be held in Singapore on March 4-13, 2013. Our Trade Task Force will focus on ensuring that TPP is crafted in a way that promotes U.S. competitiveness.

*Statement supported by New Dem Trade, Infrastructure, and Manufacturing Task Force Chairs Representatives Rick Larsen (WA-02), Gregory Meeks (NY-05), and Cedric Richmond (LA-02).*

*The New Democrat Coalition, more than one fourth of the House Democratic Caucus, is dedicated to maintaining America's standing as the world's strongest, most successful nation. Founded in 1997, the New Dems believe firmly in the power of American ingenuity and innovation, and are focused on finding ways to foster and harness this creativity to grow our economy, create new American jobs, and ensure a safer and more secure future for our country.*

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