

News Release**For Immediate Release****June 12, 2012****Contact: Sam Jefferies
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ECAT WELCOMES INTRODUCTION OF RUSSIA PNTR LEGISLATION
Urges Quick Action by House and Senate to Ensure that U.S. Industries Are Not Left Behind

Washington, D.C., June 12, 2012: Calman Cohen, President of the Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT), issued the statement below after the introduction today of legislation authorizing permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with Russia by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, International Trade Subcommittee Ranking Member John Thune, Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, and Armed Services Committee Ranking Member John McCain:

“ECAT strongly commends the leadership of Senators Baucus, Thune, Kerry and McCain in introducing legislation today that will authorize PNTR with Russia. For 18 years, U.S. negotiators from Republican and Democratic administrations led efforts to ensure that Russia’s entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) would be on strong commercial terms that will benefit U.S. farmers, manufacturers and service providers. After concluding the negotiations on that basis last year, Russia was invited to join the WTO in December 2011 and is now posed to formalize its entry before summer’s end.

“Russia’s full implementation of its commitments on goods and services market access, including Russia’s obligation to join the Information Technology Agreement upon accession; core WTO rules, including on intellectual property, transparency and science-based sanitary and phytosanitary measures; and binding dispute settlement will provide important benefits to U.S. companies and their workers, creating new markets for our goods and services and fairer rules.

“To ensure that U.S. exporters and all segments of the U.S. economy receive the full benefits of Russia’s accession, the U.S. Congress must act quickly to pass this legislation. Without the extension of PNTR, U.S. industries and the United States will be left out of many of the advantages that Russia’s WTO membership will provide to countries around the world. Already, U.S. exporters are behind their counterparts in the European Union and China in supplying Russia’s market, the 18th-largest import market in the world.

“ECAT has made passage of PNTR with Russia a priority this year and looks forward to intensifying its work with Congress and the Administration so that PNTR legislation moves forward before Russia formally joins the WTO.”

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Founded in 1967, ECAT is an organization of the heads of leading U.S. international business enterprises representing all major sectors of the American economy. Their annual worldwide sales exceed \$3 trillion and they employ more than

6.4 million persons. ECAT's purpose is to promote economic growth through the expansion of international trade and investment.