

News Release**December 6, 2012****Contact: Sam Jefferies
202-659-5147****ECAT WELCOMES SENATE PASSAGE OF RUSSIA PNTR LEGISLATION**
Applauds Congressional Action in Support of U.S. Competitiveness in the Russian Market

Washington, D.C., December 6, 2012: Calman Cohen, President of the Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT), issued the statement below in response to passage by the U.S. Senate of H.R. 6156, legislation to extend Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) to Russia:

“ECAT welcomes today’s passage through the Senate of H.R. 6156, to establish permanent normal trade relations with Russia – the world’s 9th-largest economy. Acting in a decisive, strongly bipartisan fashion, the Senate voted 92-4 to enable U.S. farmers, ranchers, manufacturers and service providers to take full advantage of Russia’s extensive World Trade Organization (WTO) accession commitments, as is already being done by their competitors in the 155 other member countries of the WTO. These concessions include significant commitments in the agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors, as well as the commitment to join the Information Technology Agreement and to adopt core WTO rules, including on intellectual property and transparency.

“Russia’s market provides significant potential for increased U.S. exports and investment, supporting jobs in the United States. H.R. 6156 helps ensure that U.S. companies and their workers will benefit in full from Russia’s WTO commitments and that the United States can utilize WTO dispute settlement to enforce those commitments. ECAT applauds the hard work of Senate leaders – including Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus and Ranking Member Orrin Hatch - in moving this legislation through the Senate. ECAT urges Russia to follow through on all commitments of its accession package, including joining the Information Technology Agreement promptly. ECAT remains committed to working with the Administration and Congress on trade priorities for the coming year, including the conclusion of a comprehensive, high-standard Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement in 2013 in order to continue to expand trade-related opportunities for U.S. firms and their workers across all industries.”

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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 \$3.0 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.