



Karyn Burns

VP, Government Relations & Communications

## Lobby Day Fly In with The Coalition for a Prosperous America



In mid-March, I was pleased to represent MACNY and the Manufacturers Alliance of New York State as part of the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) Washington D.C. Lobby Day Fly In. Collectively, our group lobbied more than 100 House and Senate offices in the nation’s capital with focus on our nation’s growing trade deficit. We urged Members to support legislation that would eliminate the nation’s trade deficit, address an overvalued dollar, provide stronger trade enforcement, and tackle troubling trade issues with China. It was an exciting time to be in Washington on this topic, as trade has been a recent policy focus and widely discussed on the national level.

In addition to congressional visits, CPA hosted a bipartisan group of Members, including Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY-23), Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL-23), Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL-05), and Rep. Robert Pittinger (R-NC-09), for a series of meetings that highlighted the importance of strategic trade.

During a packed, two-day schedule, our New York group provided Members and their staffs with legislative solutions aimed at eliminating America’s trade deficit, which grew to \$566 billion last year. A fact sheet produced by CPA offered key reasons why “free” and “strategic” trade can result in balanced trade—instead of the job loss that has plagued America’s productive sectors for the past 15 years. CPA’s 4.1 million members (many in manufacturing and agriculture) are united in our view that a continuing trade deficit hampers jobs and productivity nationwide.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was also a popular topic of discussion. CPA’s position on NAFTA is “End It or Mend It.” CPA has long argued that NAFTA has hurt U.S. manufacturing, cost jobs, and reduced investment. In various Hill meetings this week, CPA members explained the provisions that must be included in a “NAFTA 2.0” to help America’s manufacturers, including periodic reviews and a mechanism for countries to withdraw, if necessary.

The recent announcement by President Trump of tariffs on steel and aluminum imports was also a subject of earnest discussion, especially since CPA has many members in the steel industry. During our Hill meetings, we emphasized the importance for national security of a vibrant domestic steel and aluminum industry.

CPA will continue to urge action on America’s troubling trade deficit, and looks forward to expanding its relationship with Members of Congress who have pledged to fight for America’s manufacturers, farmers, and their workers. We look forward to our continued efforts with CPA in this important policy area. If you would like to learn more about our efforts with CPA and their positions, please contact me at [kburns@macny.org](mailto:kburns@macny.org).