



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

March 23, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to express concern about your administration's lack of a clear trade agenda. More than two years into your term, your administration has not begun to negotiate any comprehensive and enforceable trade agreements, let alone concluded such an agreement. This lacking negotiating agenda puts U.S. farmers, workers, and job-creators at a disadvantage against China. When done right, trade is a bipartisan issue, and we are ready and able to assist the administration to pursue a comprehensive trade agenda that levels the playing field for American products, farmers, and workers and advances our values in an enforceable way.

Not pursuing new tariff-reducing enforceable trade agreements breaks a four decade long bipartisan approach to trade policy and means we are missing out on opportunities to advance U.S. economic interests, U.S. security, and create jobs right here in America. As a result, not only are market access opportunities but also our ability to influence other nations' policies related to trade, investment, and standards-setting is being ceded to China, whose influence around the globe continues to grow, to the economic and strategic disadvantage of the United States.

We cannot afford to take a back seat on trade if we want to remain a global economic leader. Already, China leads the world in international trade. Nearly two thirds of all countries now trade more with China than they do with the United States. China has even displaced the United States as the European Union's largest trading partner. While the United States has come to a virtual standstill in competition for economic influence because of a focus on dialogues, frameworks, and limited agreements that lack meaningful enforcement mechanisms and market access commitments, China and other economic competitors have taken advantage of our absence.

To the extent that your focus on less traditional dialogues and frameworks is a result of a desire to avoid agreements that require congressional approval, we urge you to reconsider this approach. Trade agreements approved by Congress are more durable than any trade-related initiatives that are concluded as executive agreements, and given Congress's exclusive

Constitutional authority over foreign commerce, you lack the ability to bind the United States in this area without congressional approval. Historically, Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) has been an important tool to ensure an appropriate balance of Congress setting negotiating objectives and consultation requirements that the President must follow in order to smooth the path to congressional approval. Yet TPA has been expired for almost two years and your administration hasn't engaged with Congress in any meaningful way to request reauthorization.

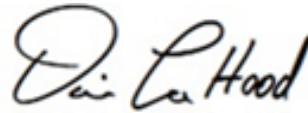
High-standard new trade agreements will positively impact the U.S. economy, adding billions of dollars to annual gross domestic product, strengthening key supply chains, and creating jobs for many of our constituents. The administration needs to look no further than the high-standard and successful United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which received historic levels of bipartisan Congressional support, to see the potential breadth of support for pursuing ambitious and substantive trade agreements that protect and create U.S. jobs, counter China's aggression, and open new markets for our farmers. Your administration should use USMCA as a model and foundation in pursuing agreements with other allies and trading partners around the world that serve our economic and strategic interests.

We encourage you to strongly review your approach of using trade policy to compete with China. You will find that we are willing partners if you work closely with Congress to negotiate substantive, enforceable agreements to keep the United States strategically competitive globally.

Sincerely,



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



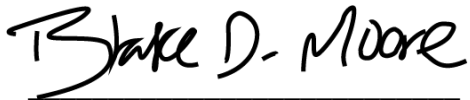
A. Drew Ferguson, IV
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Blake Moore
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



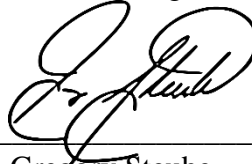
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



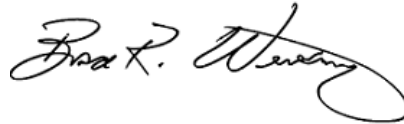
Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



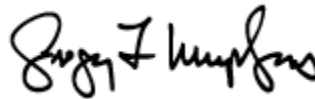
Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M
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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
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Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

cc: Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative, USTR