

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2017

Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

As freshmen Members of Congress representing diverse districts across the United States, we have a range of views on the opportunities and challenges created by trade agreements. Renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is an opportunity to create a new trade agreement model that benefits working families, as congressional Democrats have long sought. To date, more than 930,000 American jobs have been certified as lost to NAFTA under the Trade Adjustment Assistance program alone.


Depending on the process and the policies pursued in the renegotiation, a resulting deal could help create good jobs, raise wages and safeguard environmental and health protections — or it could exacerbate NAFTA's existing offshoring incentives and grant new powers and privileges to the large corporations that shaped past pacts.

We urge you to negotiate modifications to NAFTA that we can support. That is why we are united in calling on you to meet these criteria:


- A transparent process with U.S. negotiating proposals and draft agreement texts available to Congress and the public and the special access now enjoyed by hundreds of corporate trade advisors ended.
- Eliminate investor-state dispute settlement, which promotes job offshoring by eliminating many risks associated with relocating to low-wage countries and gives multinational corporations rights to sue governments before a tribunals of three corporate lawyers empowered to order taxpayers to pay the corporations unlimited sums, including for the loss of expected future profits, on claims that our laws, court decisions or other government actions violate NAFTA's special privileges for foreign investors.
- Add strong, enforceable labor and environmental standards to NAFTA's core text, subject to an independent dispute settlement process and with sanctions equal to any other terms. Real average annual wages in Mexico have declined nine percent since NAFTA and are now lower than coastal China. Mexico's weak environmental standards have further incentivized the offshoring of jobs and pollution. If renegotiations are to raise wages and environmental protections in the NAFTA nations, these terms must do better than those in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).
- Eliminate NAFTA's procurement rules that waive Buy American and Buy Local policies, offshoring Americans' tax dollars instead of investing them to create jobs here, and that limit the qualifications governments may require of bidders and the specifications governments may set for goods or services.


- Modify NAFTA rules to require all imported goods and services meet our domestic safety, licensing, consumer right-to-know and environmental rules to safeguard our consumers and create a level playing field for our businesses, farmers and workers.
- Do not add to NAFTA the TPP's extended monopolies and other protections for pharmaceutical companies that increase the cost of medicines, terms that undermine consumer privacy, or its limits on financial regulations needed to safeguard consumers.

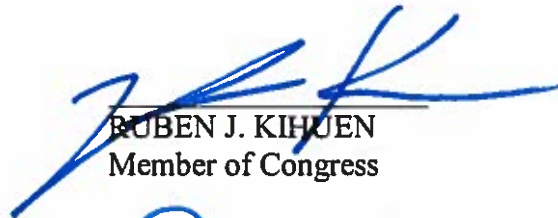
Sincerely,


PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress



SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress


VAL B. DEMINGS
Member of Congress


RUBEN J. KIHUEN
Member of Congress


A. DONALD McEACHIN
Member of Congress


JACKY ROSEN
Member of Congress


CHARLIE CRIST
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JAMIE RASKIN
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RO KHANNA
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RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
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J. LUIS CORREA
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LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
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