

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 14, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

It has been over twenty years since the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the start of its disastrous impact on working Americans. Those of us who were here during the original NAFTA debate stood together then in opposing its passage, knowing it would be bad for workers, bad for the environment, and bad for America.

Fast forward to today and the reality has proven just that. Despite the grand promises that NAFTA would create a huge trade surplus for the United States of between \$9-12 billion and create thousands of new jobs, the outcome is grim. In 1993, the U.S. goods trade deficit with Canada was only \$30.4 billion while we enjoyed a goods trade surplus of \$2.6 billion with Mexico. Since the passage of NAFTA the U.S. has not only lost our trade surplus with Mexico, but we now face a combined goods trade deficit of \$173 billion between both countries. Additionally, it's been estimated that NAFTA caused the loss of almost one million U.S. jobs within its first ten years alone.

During the 2016 presidential campaign you called NAFTA, "the worst trade deal in the history of the world," and promised to get a deal that was much better for Americans. While we are encouraged to see your administration take steps to begin negotiating a new NAFTA, we want to warn that simply making tweaks or minor changes to the current deal will not be enough—we need an entirely new agreement that will fix the decades of damage NAFTA has caused.

We have worked with those who were hardest hit by NAFTA's misguided policies to develop the groundwork for a new NAFTA called the 'Worker's Bill of Rights.' This ten-point framework includes the most essential provisions which must be included in any new U.S. trade agreement in order to help, not hurt, America's working class. We believe a new NAFTA must:

- **Require Strong Labor & Environmental Standards—and Ensure They Are Effectively Enforced**

NAFTA was finalized without any real labor or environmental standards to ensure worker safety, clean air and water, or protections for natural resources. A NAFTA replacement must include strong, binding, and enforceable labor and environmental standards in the agreement's core text with requirements that are enforced.

- **Eliminate the Dangerous Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Provision that Undermines U.S. Sovereignty**

ISDS is a private justice system for foreign investors under which foreign investors can sue the U.S. in front of private tribunals for enforcing our own laws. This provision must be eliminated in a replacement deal.

- End Foreign Tribunals that Undermine U.S. Trade Enforcement Laws, Such as NAFTA's Chapter 19

NAFTA allows for a final review of a domestic anti-dumping or countervailing duty cases by an international panel, eliminating the U.S.'s ability to remedy trade abuses in our own markets. NAFTA's Chapter 19 puts U.S. industries at the mercy of foreign tribunals with no protection for our firms or employees. It must be eliminated.

- Add Strict, Enforceable Disciplines to Fight against Currency Manipulation

When our trading partners devalue their currencies in order to out-price U.S. goods, our markets are flooded with artificially cheap imports that put U.S. exports out of reach for foreign consumers. All U.S. trade pacts must include strong, enforceable provisions against currency manipulation.

- Require Strong Rules of Origin on Cars, Auto Parts, and Other Manufactured Goods

NAFTA rules require that automobiles be only 62.5 percent "made in North America" to qualify for duty-free treatment. The auto rule of origin must be upgraded so that 90 percent of a product's value is legitimately sourced from a NAFTA country and transshipment and other abuses are eliminated.

- Eliminate Provisions that Undermine Buy America, Buy American, or other Domestic Procurement Preferences

NAFTA's current provisions undermine domestic procurement preferences which ensure American-made goods are purchased when the government spends American's tax dollars on federal projects. Any terms undercutting Buy America, Buy American, or other domestic procurement preferences should be eliminated to help ensure federal projects go to U.S. firms and U.S. dollars are spent on American-made goods.

- Require Imports and Foreign Companies Operating in the U.S. to Adhere to U.S. Laws

NAFTA doesn't require imported food to meet U.S. safety standards and exposes to challenge safety, inspection, and labeling requirements for a vast array of products, including country-of-origin labeling. A new trade agreement must require imported food to adhere to U.S. safety and labeling laws and must require foreign service sector companies operating in the U.S. to comply with U.S. environmental, land use, safety, privacy, transparency, professional qualification, and consumer access laws.

- Lower the Cost of Prescription Drugs

NAFTA includes intellectual property protection provisions which allow pharmaceutical companies to drive up the cost of medicines. A replacement deal must eliminate these provisions to help lower drug costs for American consumers.

- Require Foreign Operators to Comply with U.S. Transportation Laws

Currently, NAFTA requires the U.S. to open our roads to commercial vehicles domiciled in other countries without ensuring they adhere to U.S. traffic safety and environmental laws. A NAFTA replacement must require all foreign service providers' vehicles and drivers entering the U.S. to meet highway safety and environmental standards before being granted access to U.S. transportation systems.

- Protect U.S. Energy Policy

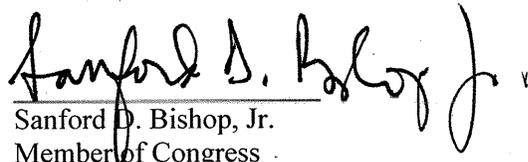
A NAFTA replacement must protect each country's energy independence and autonomy over environmental policy by excluding current NAFTA terms which require a share of energy supplies to be exported while enabling challenges to widely-used climate policies.

With NAFTA negotiations set to begin as early as August 17, we hope these core provisions will serve as a starting point for your administration's talks with Canada and Mexico. We intend to measure the success of any new trade deal by whether or not it includes these most basic protections for American workers, consumers, the environment, and U.S. sovereignty.

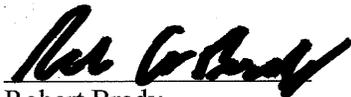
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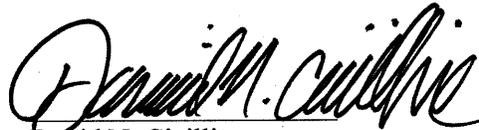
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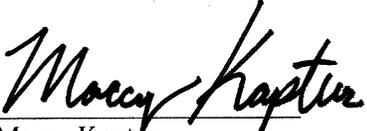


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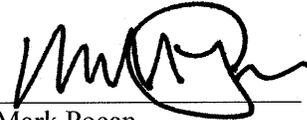
  
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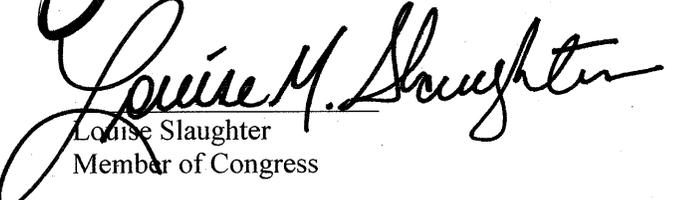
  
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Nydia Velazquez  
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cc: Secretary Wilbur Ross, Department of Commerce  
Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative