

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

June 19, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Chairman Blumenauer:

Thank you for convening the hearing today on the 2019 trade policy agenda, including USMCA, negotiations with China, Japan, the EU, and the UK, and U.S. participation in the WTO. This hearing is an important opportunity to engage with Ambassador Lighthizer on a wide range of trade initiatives that can help U.S. companies receive fair treatment and access more customers around the world for Made-in-America goods and services, particularly the cost of delay in Congressional consideration of USMCA. We write to highlight several principles that will be our focus in today's hearing and into the future.

First, USMCA is a 21st-century trade agreement that sets new and high standards in many areas, producing strong wins for American manufacturers, farmers, and service providers. USMCA is a great win for the United States, including in key areas like agriculture, digital trade, and intellectual property, because it breaks new ground in ways that create new opportunities for Americans in every sector of our economy.

Second, Congress must move forward to approve USMCA promptly, without further delay, to unlock its many benefits. Every day of delay hurts American workers, farmers, and local businesses that are waiting to benefit from new market access and higher standards. We look forward to working with you to approve and implement the agreement as soon as possible while ensuring tough, effective, and predictable enforcement for all aspects of the agreement.

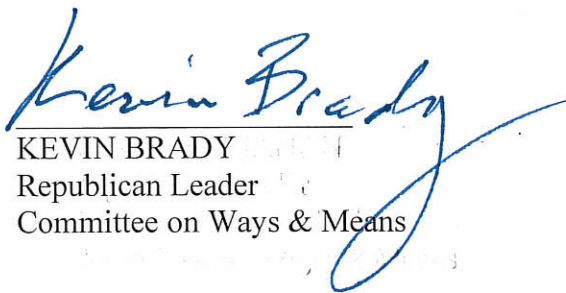
Third, we urge China to return to the negotiating table in a serious way so that President Trump can achieve a durable and enforceable negotiated solution to its unfair and distortive practices. President Trump deserves credit for his strong leadership in insisting that China make structural changes to end unfair practices that harm U.S. companies and workers. It is disappointing that China recently backtracked on previous commitments in negotiations with the United States, but we are confident that China will have no choice but to respond to President Trump's strong


actions and address these structural issues through an enforceable negotiated solution that will level the playing field for American farmers, ranchers, and businesses.

Fourth, we support comprehensive negotiations to create more markets for U.S. manufacturing, agriculture, and services in Japan, the EU, and the UK, as well as potential new partners. We look forward to meaningful and timely consultations with USTR at the Member and staff level, as required by the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act and the Trade Act of 1974.

We look forward to discussing these important issues and others with Ambassador Lighthizer today and working on a bipartisan basis to move forward on approving USMCA in the near future.

Sincerely,


KEVIN BRADY
Republican Leader
Committee on Ways & Means


VERN BUCHANAN
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways & Means