

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan and Ranking Member Levin:

As the House of Representatives considers trade promotion authority (TPA) legislation, we write to emphasize the importance of strong enforcement of our trade laws.

We recognize that opening new markets to American-made products through free trade agreements is critical to expanding the U.S. economy and creating jobs. And while Congress must provide the Administration with the appropriate tools to negotiate trade deals, we should assure that the American people and U.S. businesses will be protected against manipulative and unfair foreign competition. Along with TPA, we must ensure that our trade agreements and trade laws will be fully and vigorously enforced. Too often, foreign nations do not live up to the obligations they agreed to in trade agreements, leaving U.S. businesses to face trade distorting practices that put them at a competitive disadvantage.

When our trading partners engage in unfair practices that harm American industry, one recourse for U.S. farmers and manufacturers is to petition the federal government to enforce our trade laws. Unfortunately, the effectiveness of those laws has been weakened over time as exporters have developed evasive trade distorting practices and schemes. Our trade laws and remedies have been outpaced by enforcement challenges and prolific evasion, and the U.S. has become less competitive as a result of our inability to counteract these unfair practices. Therefore, we urge the Committee to consider enforcement provisions to improve the effectiveness of our trade laws. Strengthening the range of available tools to combat evasion of our trade remedy laws would go a long way in promoting fairer competition for U.S. industry.

Addressing trade enforcement issues will give the American business community confidence that the U.S. government will fight for a level playing field for our farmers and manufacturers. Maintaining strong trade laws and vigorous enforcement of those laws are critical elements of our efforts to advance a pro-growth trade agenda that will expand the economy and create jobs.

Sincerely,



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



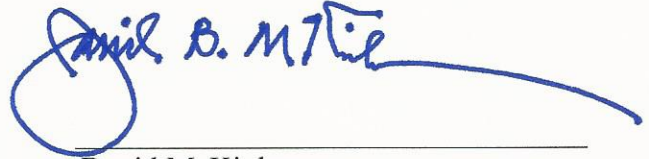
Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



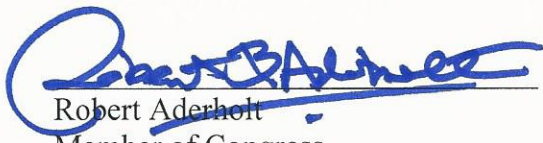
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



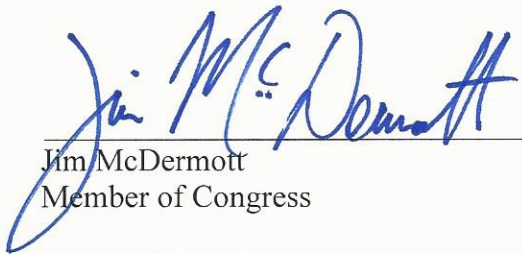
David McKinley
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



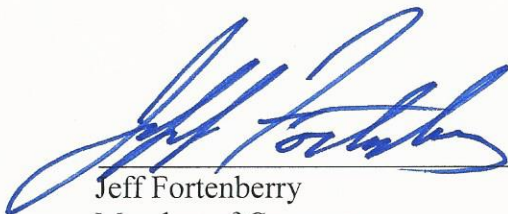
Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



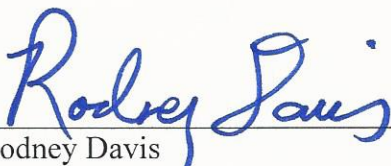
Bob Gibbs
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Jeff Fortenberry
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Sam Graves
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Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
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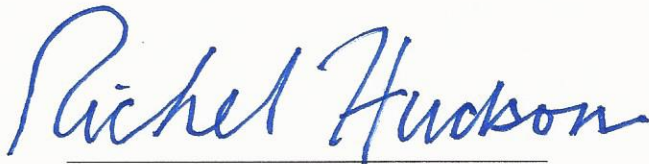
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Phil Roe
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David Rouzer
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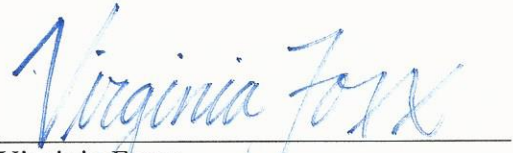
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek
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Virginia Foxx
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cc:

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Chairman
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1203 Longworth House Office Building
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The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Trade
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
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Gregg Harper
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