



December 21, 2021

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Katherine C. Tai  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Raimondo and Ambassador Tai,

As trade leaders of the New Democrat Coalition, we believe the United States is made stronger and safer through our alliances and leadership of the international order that has guided the world for nearly a century, including multilateral fora and the rules-based trading system that has helped promote American values and excellence abroad. We write to commend you on your recent actions to better coordinate with our allies and bring much-needed relief to American families, workers, farmers, and manufacturers by removing the damaging steel and aluminum tariffs imposed by the prior administration on the European Union, and we urge you to continue to transition away from the use of tariffs on our allies. We are encouraged by your recent announcement of formal consultations with Japan on steel and aluminum and ask that you begin similar consultations with the United Kingdom and other close trading partners and move quickly in these discussions as downstream users continue to face astonishingly high prices in steel and aluminum.

It is imperative that the United States continue to set the rules for the global economy, rather than have them set by others. We look forward to working with you and President Biden in executing a trade agenda that meets the challenges and opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; promotes American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses; lowers costs for American families; recommits to multilateralism and U.S. global leadership; and strengthens our allies and close trading partners. A pro-growth trade agenda and sufficient supply of steel and aluminum at a cost-competitive price is critical as we implement President Biden's historic investments in infrastructure and continue our ongoing legislative efforts to build back better and bolster U.S. innovation, competitiveness, and global supply chains.

We share your concerns with China's overcapacity in the steel and aluminum industries. That said, imposing tariffs on our closest allies puts us at odds with our friends and strategic partners around the world, weakens our ability to counter China's trade abuses, and places American workers and manufacturers on an uneven playing field by artificially pushing U.S. prices far above the global average. Eliminating these tariffs will help the U.S. compete and ease inflationary pressures for American families, workers, and manufacturers. Transitioning away from tariffs with other market-based economies would send a strong signal about your administration's steadfast commitment to keeping costs down for American families who often see their wallets hit by increased costs downstream.

We continue to share your belief that a multilateral approach is needed to counter the market distortions in the steel and aluminum industries stemming mainly from China. The go-it-alone approach preferred by the prior Administration through an indiscriminate use of the Section 232 authorities has failed to stem overcapacity challenges in steel and aluminum and has weakened our own allies and trading partners. Instead, we should build on the progress made with the European Union by taking steps toward removing steel and aluminum tariffs on our closest trading partners, while also working in tandem with our allies toward more effectively countering China's abuses.

As members of the New Democrat Coalition's Trade Taskforce, we are committed to pursuing a strong trade policy that prioritizes American workers, farmers, ranchers, consumers, and businesses through economic growth, multilateralism, and a pro-growth trade agenda that strengthens our strategic partnerships across the globe, opens new markets to U.S. products, and creates American jobs. We ask that you continue to work with us, consider our recommendations, and keep Congress informed of developments on these priorities as you work to revitalize U.S. trade leadership and relationships.

Sincerely,



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Rep. Ron Kind  
Co-Chair, Trade Task  
Force  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Lizzie Fletcher  
Co-Chair, Trade Task Force  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Suzan DelBene  
Chair  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Scott Peters  
Vice-Chair  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Kathy Manning  
Freshman Leadership  
Representative  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Bradley S. Schneider  
Leadership Member  
New Democrat Coalition




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Del. Stacey E. Plaskett  
Leadership Member  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Derek Kilmer  
Chair Emeritus  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Trade Task Force Member  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Rick Larsen  
Trade Task Force  
Member  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Gregory W. Meeks  
Trade Task Force Member  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress  
New Democrat Coalition



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Rep. Marilyn Strickland  
Trade Task Force Member  
New Democrat Coalition