

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4706

July 8, 2019

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17th Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

We appreciate all the work you have done with the New Democrat Coalition and the rest of the Democratic caucus to resolve the outstanding issues that must be addressed for a successful, bipartisan passage of the updated North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

These conversations have been frank, productive and engaged in in good faith by all parties, and we are therefore optimistic that these limited concerns can be addressed in a timely manner. While we appreciate your willingness to listen, we have not seen any meaningful progress or tangible proposals from you to address these concerns. It has been clear from the outset that such proposals are necessary for a successful resolution.

The New Democrat Coalition was integral in the development and passage of the *Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA)*. It is our belief, as legislators intimately involved with the law under which the new NAFTA was negotiated, that moving forward with implementing legislation absent the agreement of Democratic leadership would almost certainly be taken as a failure to fulfill the consultation requirements of TPA. We were troubled that you sent up the draft Statement of Administrative Action on May 30 without sufficient consultation, and strongly urge you not to make the same mistake twice.


We look forward to continuing to work with you to develop these proposals to help ensure a strong, bipartisan vote on the updated NAFTA later this year.

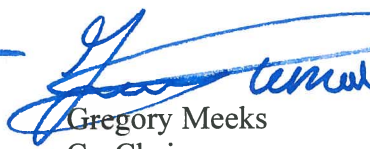
Sincerely,


  
Derek Kilmer  
Chair  
New Democrat Coalition

  
Suzan DelBene  
Vice-Chair for Policy  
New Democrat Coalition

  
Ron Kind  
Co-Chair  
NDC Trade Task Force

  
Rick Larsen  
Co-Chair  
NDC Trade Task Force

  
Gregory Meeks  
Co-Chair  
NDC Trade Task Force

  
Lizzie Fletcher  
Co-Chair  
NDC Trade Task Force

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Members of the House NAFTA Working Group