

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
Ambassador
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

As Members of the New Democrat Coalition who are committed to global engagement and smart trade policy that works for American workers, businesses and consumers, we are very concerned the administration is blocking appointments to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body.

The WTO was created in 1995 with the help of the United States after the Cold War to establish high standards for international commerce and trade. The WTO serves a critical purpose of preventing protectionism and trade wars internationally. WTO is the sole international trade organization with the tools to ensure there are mechanisms for trade enforcement and trade remedies. International trade would not work without the WTO, which is why there are 76 Members of the WTO, including the United States. Two-thirds of the nations that benefit from this body are developing countries.

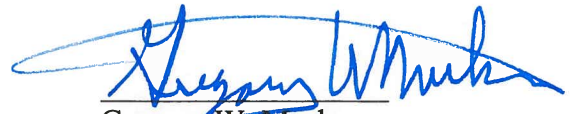
A non-functioning WTO will hurt international commerce and the reputation of the United States. Other Members of the WTO have already spoken out against our actions. The United States wins more cases in the WTO than any other country. While there are valid concerns with the WTO Appellate Body and dispute settlement process, by blocking these appointments, we are hurting our own interests.

Please allow for the appointments of the Appellate Body so global order in international commerce and the system we set up can continue to thrive.

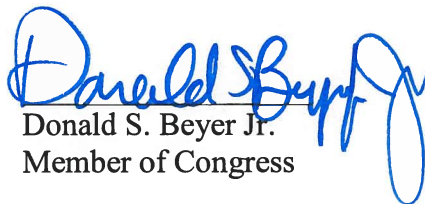
Sincerely,




Rick Larsen
Member of Congress




Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

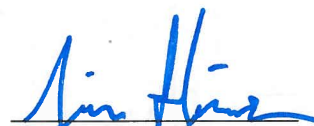

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

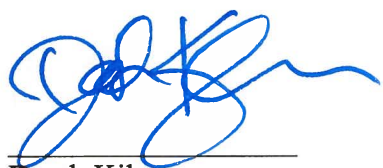

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress


Susan Davis
Member of Congress


Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress


Jim Himes
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
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David Scott
Member of Congress


Darren Soto
Member of Congress