Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 19, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden President of the United States 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear President Biden,

As new Members of Congress representing diverse districts across the United States, we look forward to working with you to ensure U.S. trade policy delivers for working people, helps to build a more resilient and fair economy, safeguards the environment, public health, and civil rights, and ensures independent farms, small businesses, and innovators can succeed.

As your administration implements important new industrial policies and begins negotiations on new trade policies, we respectfully urge you to work with us and our constituents in a transparent and inclusive manner.

From coast to coast, our constituents experience the downsides of past trade policies, which were shaped by and for the largest corporate interests. Some of the districts we represent suffer from job offshoring and unfair imports impacting local businesses and farms. Others are hurt by broken supply chains, created in part by shortages of vital goods because of economic concentration, fostered by low road trade agreements or from a lack of diverse and domestic production. The past model of globalization at any cost exacerbated the climate crisis and weakened our national security as we became over-reliant on imports of essential goods.

New trade frameworks, including the proposed Indo-Pacific Economic Partnership or Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity, must build on gains that Democrats achieved during the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiation. New pacts should improve on United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) labor standards, add effective environmental and climate standards, and include facility-specific enforcement of both. Any new pacts should only go into effect after our trade partners implement these obligations in their law and practice. The right rules and enforcement measures are key to ensuring any new agreements truly are worker-centered. We strongly support your focus on setting the rules of commerce rather than cutting the few remaining U.S. tariffs.

As the global digital economy grows, we also urge you to ensure U.S. digital trade policy prioritizes Congress' role to regulate digital firms' compliance with domestic labor, anti-trust and civil rights laws. Strong digital trade rules should ensure data privacy and security for workers and consumers, while discouraging outsourcing and preventing racial and other forms of discrimination. Digital trade rules should also support fair competition by encouraging diverse marketplaces, promoting cyber-security for small and medium sized businesses, and limiting unhealthy market concentration and anti-competitive behavior by existing large firms. Digital

trade can bring real gains, but a balanced approach that ensures future domestic policy flexibility is integral to safeguarding the public interest.

Finally, we support your efforts to reshape our economy to counter the climate crisis and enhance our reliance and security. As you implement your industrial policy initiatives, we urge you to focus on building capacity at home, with strong Buy American and domestic content and assembly rules. This will both maximize U.S. resilience and create good jobs to build our economy from the bottom up and the middle out. We must update global and regional trade rules to reflect new climate and geopolitical realities, not allow outdated trade rules and obligations to undermine our wellbeing and security.

We are excited to work with you to continue the transformation of U.S. trade policies that you have begun.

Sincerely,

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Nikki Budzinski Member of Congress

JU Tokuda Member of Congress

Val Hoyle Member of Congress

Chris Deluzio Member of Congress

Eric Sorensen Member of Congress

Dan Goldman Member of Congress

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