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## Congress of the United States

### U.S. House of Representatives

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1102 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-3625

Washington, DC 20515-6348

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

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March 18, 2009

The President  
The White House  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am deeply concerned about how we handle the very important issue of the safety of Mexican trucks operating in the United States and its trade implications. As you know, recently enacted legislation terminates the existing pilot program designed to ensure select Mexican trucks operating in the United States meet our safety standards, in violation of our NAFTA obligations. Mexico is retaliating against us under the agreement by increasing duties on \$2.4 billion of U.S. exports of key products like fruit, vegetables, nuts, wine, home appliances, consumer products, and paper. The retaliation makes these U.S. products significantly less competitive and could close the Mexican market to many of our exports.

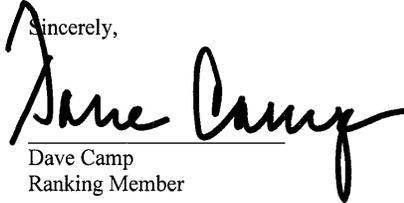
First and foremost, we must assure that all trucks on our highways are operated safely, whether they are operated by U.S. drivers or Mexican drivers. Therefore, I urge you and the rest of the Administration to work quickly with all interested stakeholders to develop a new program, replacing the terminated pilot program, to provide us with the information needed to determine whether operators have an appropriate safety record. Such an approach would address safety concerns without erecting trade barriers that allow Mexico to retaliate against us and create drastic consequences for our exporters.

If we choose to continue to disregard our obligations and compel this retaliation, we are punishing our farmers, businesses, and workers at a time when our economy is in great distress. We need more exports, not fewer, to help our economy recover, and every trade barrier we erect invites only more.

Mr. President  
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I stand ready to work with you to develop a stronger and more rigorous safety program that will protect our highways and avoid exposing our farmers and manufacturers to significant collateral damage through retaliation.

Sincerely,

  
Dave Camp  
Ranking Member

  
Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Trade

Cc: Ambassador Ron Kirk, United States Trade Representative  
Secretary Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture