

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2013

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 Seventeenth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Ambassador Froman:

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which you recently described as a flagship initiative of the President's trade policy, offers the United States an important opportunity to construct rules and disciplines that reflect the 21st century global economy in which we live. U.S. companies account for a vast amount of the value added in the global supply chain so a trade policy, and a negotiating strategy, that furthers this modern trade pattern would yield substantial benefits for the United States, in the form of long term economic growth and job gains.

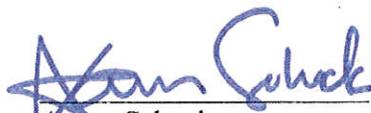
Trade in footwear represents one of the areas in which a new trade policy approach in the TPP, designed to reflect the global value chain, could make a real difference for the United States. That is because despite the fact that less than 1 percent of the footwear sold in the U.S. is produced here, the vast majority of the value of that imported footwear actually originates here. The innovation, design, marketing and sale of that footwear – key and high-value functions in the global supply chain – are all completed in the U.S., providing thousands of good-paying American jobs in every state.

Of the footwear imported into the U.S., eight percent comes from Vietnam, one of the countries with whom the U.S. is negotiating the TPP. Those imports are subject to some of the highest duties in the U.S. tariff schedule. Immediate, meaningful duty elimination upon implementation of the TPP and establishing straight-forward and uncomplicated rules of origin for footwear would allow U.S. brands to reinvest import duty and paperwork savings in innovation and maintain global competitiveness. Perhaps, most importantly, these outdated tariffs result in an unfair burden on American families.

Only with the right TPP footwear rules that support technological progress and access to resources can the U.S. add more high value design, engineering, manufacturing technology, marketing and digital jobs here while providing U.S. consumers with more choice.

The TPP will set the stage for future agreements, making it imperative that the United States get it right. We look forward to working with you to make sure that happens.

Sincerely,


Aaron Schock
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



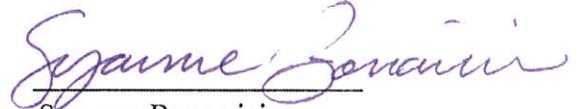
John Barrow
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Diane Black
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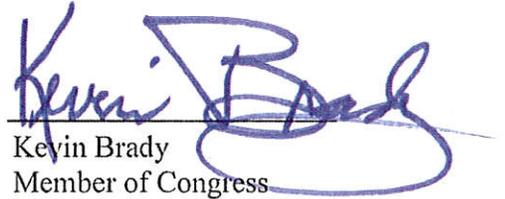
Marsha Blackburn
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
Member of Congress



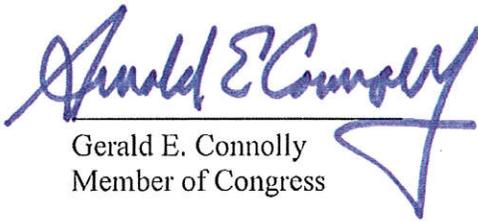
Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



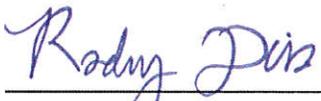
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Rodney Davis
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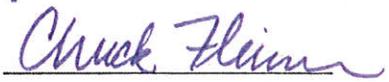
John K. Delaney
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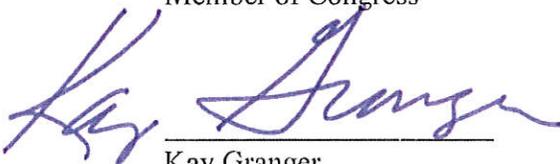
Jeff Denham
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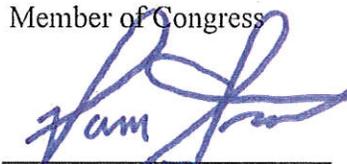
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Kay Granger
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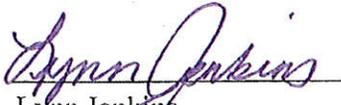
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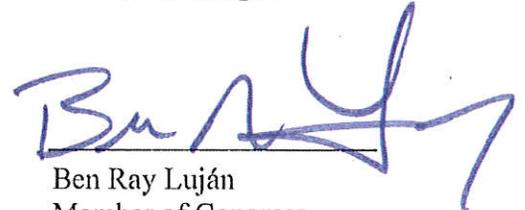
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Blaine Luetkemeyer
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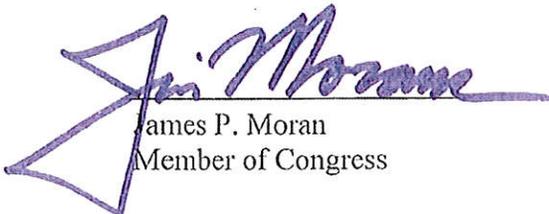
Ben Ray Luján
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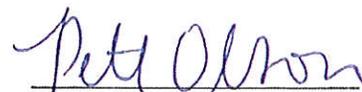
Kenny Marchant
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Jim Matheson
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James P. Moran
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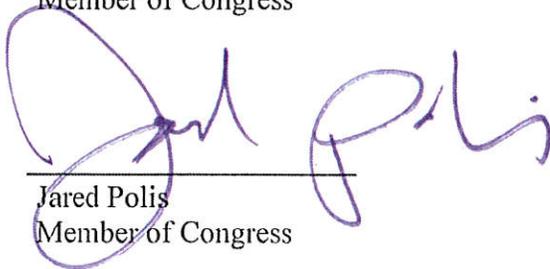
Pete Olson
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Erik Paulsen
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Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress



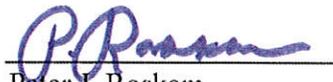
Jared Polis
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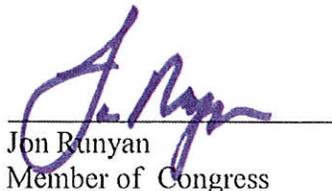
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