COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 26, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Chairman Blumenauer:

Thank you for convening the hearing today about trade and labor. We are pleased by the remarkable progress we have achieved over the last two years in improving our economy and increasing the opportunities available to U.S. workers. We are eager to sustain and expand that progress through our trade agreements by opening additional markets to U.S. goods and services while raising standards in labor and other areas to ensure a level playing field. We write to highlight several principles that will be our focus in today's hearing and into the future.

First, Republicans have been successful over the last two years in increasing job opportunities and incomes while reducing the unemployment rate. Republican-led tax reform and regulatory relief have helped remove many of the constraints that led to the slow-growth years we experienced during the previous administration.

Second, Republicans aim to build on this success with smart and enforceable trade agreements that allow us to sell American products and services in more markets while lifting standards for workers. Our trade agreements have demonstrably and significantly benefited American workers through better paying jobs, while increasing standards abroad, but we need to continue to make progress. One of the best ways to make such progress is to move toward implementation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement as soon as possible this year and to negotiate high-standard new trade agreements, starting with Japan, the European Union, and the United Kingdom.

Third, we prioritize strong enforcement of **all** commitments in our trade agreements, including market access, non-tariff barriers, intellectual property, labor, and environment. Enforcement is essential to make sure that American workers, farmers, ranchers, and companies see the benefits of the trade agreements we work hard to negotiate. We are eager to work with Democrats and the Administration to ensure comprehensive enforcement so that our trading partners live up to their commitments.

We appreciate your scheduling of this timely hearing. We look forward to addressing these critical issues with the witnesses today and working on a bipartisan basis to address enforcement of our trade agreements.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY
Republican Leader
Committee on Ways and Means

VERN BUCHANAN
Republican Leader
Committee on Ways and Means
Trade Subcommittee