

Ways and Means Member Day Hearing 6.4.2019

- Thank You Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you and Ranking Member Brady for your leadership on this Committee and thank all the members of the Committee for their participation in today's hearing.
- I have the honor of a lifetime to represent Ohio's 16th Congressional District. I like to think that the district that I represent has a little slice of everything that makes Ohio such a great place to raise a family and start a business.
- The district has a strong manufacturing base that can be found in every corner of my district, helping to contribute to the more than 700,000 manufacturing jobs that are located in the state of Ohio – representing 17% of the state's GDP. We are proud of our manufacturing economy and the opportunities that it creates for families throughout our region.
- The 16th District also has a strong agriculture community that is the lifeline of our economy in Medina and Wayne counties in the southern portion of my district. I am proud to say that Wayne County is the leading producer of dairy in the Buckeye State, with more than 450 dairy farms and an over \$130 million impact on our economy in dairy products sold. In addition, the 16th District plays a leading role in the production of soybeans and corn and is home to the Ohio State University Agricultural Research and Development Center, which continues to advance innovative agricultural practices.
- Finally, my district includes the western suburbs of Cleveland, right off the coast of Lake Erie – one of our nation's finest treasures.
- When I ran for Congress, I promised my constituents I would do everything in my power to champion pro-growth policies and empower economic development in Northeast Ohio. With that in mind, I encourage the Committee and the 116th Congress to

consider and approve the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

- Our nation's trade relationships with Canada and Mexico are critical. Those two countries are some of our top trading partners. And with that, it is vital we work together as a nation to remove barriers to trade and provide economic certainty for small businesses, family farmers, and hometown manufacturers that form the heart of our nation and the backbone of our economy.
- The recent report from the non-partisan U.S. International Trade Commission could not have been more clear. It read, and I quote, "manufacturing would experience the largest percentage gains in output, exports, wages, and employment," end quote. The report went on to say that, quote "the agreement would likely have a positive impact on all broad industry sectors within the US economy" and would "raise US real GDP by \$68.2 billion" and increase US employment by nearly 180,000 jobs.
- I have heard from companies as large as the JM Smucker Company, which is a nationally recognized leader in the production of the snacks, jellies, coffee, and even pet food - to countless small manufacturers, who have shared with me the importance of ratifying this trade agreement.
- For farmers in my district and across the nation, USMCA would be welcomed good news for operations. Our farmers have been working through one of the most difficult business environments of their lives, and the Ohio agricultural community is near unanimous in its support of this deal. For the dairy farmers throughout Ohio, the increased access gains to the Canadian market will help spur demand and increase growth opportunities.
- It is my belief that finalizing USMCA is one of the most impactful accomplishments that this Congress will be able to achieve. By providing needed certainty to US companies and updating our trade laws with two of our largest trading partners, the USMCA will help grow our economy and provide more opportunities for

my constituents in Northeast Ohio. It will mean more jobs, higher wages and a stronger economy in my community and across the nation.

- Washington certainly is facing challenges, but I came to Congress to work in a collaborative way with members on both sides of the aisle to deliver results for the people of Ohio's 16th District.
- I encourage the Committee to work in a bipartisan manner with the House leadership and the rest of our colleagues to bring forward this legislation to the House floor. Thank you again for your participation in today's hearing and I look forward to working with you for the remainder of this Congress.