

Chairman Neal, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of this Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at today's Member Day hearing to highlight what's on the minds of folks back home.

This year, I have hosted almost 40 town halls across my district, and one of the top issues discussed is the urgent need to pass the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. Great progress has been made, especially in the past few weeks, but with more than \$4 billion in sales to Canada and Mexico from Kansas annually, it's clear that the longer we wait the more it will hurt farmers as well as the economy in Kansas and across the country. Free and reciprocal trade is vital to these important market relationships, which is why improving existing trade agreements and opening new markets to U.S. producers is of utmost importance. I applaud the Committee for the steps you all have taken thus far to get this agreement across the finish line and look forward to continuing to work with you, as well as the Administration, to finalize USMCA.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Biofuels Caucus, a two-year extension of the biodiesel tax credit is something I'd ask for you to consider

including in the package this committee is working on. As you know, we are now in our 19th month of the credit being lapsed, and damage is being done every day that it isn't reinstated. Extending the credit for two years would help to provide certainty to the corn, ethanol, and sorghum producers back in Kansas, and will help to put America first by providing clean and affordable renewable fuel for our nation.

As we continue to consider what a tax extenders package might look like, I'd also ask that you retroactively restore a 15-year depreciation schedule for qualified improvement property. Due to a drafting error in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, qualified improvement properties were made subject to a 39-year depreciation, which impacts thousands of small business owners across the country. This can be particularly harmful for smaller community stores, like Strong City Grocery Store, which recently reopened after being closed for two years and is the only grocery store serving this community. Without this fix, it becomes more difficult to invest in expensive equipment like freezers and refrigerators. Restoring the 15-year depreciation would be beneficial to small business owners and increase economic growth and quality of life, especially in rural Kansas.

The creation of Opportunity Zones through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to incentivize economic development held great promise when the law first passed. Unfortunately, that was 18 months ago and the rules surrounding opportunity zones still have not been finalized.

Communities are awaiting another round of proposed regulations from the Treasury Department to further clarify the program. Despite being a great program and one that I fully support, the lack of guidance on how the incentives actually work have kept people from investing in these economically distressed areas. Communities in my district, and I'm sure others across the country, look to incentives like these to attract new businesses to their areas, which is why we must do everything we can to encourage our friends at Treasury to finalize those rules.

Once again, I thank you all for the opportunity to speak about the impact these issues have on the State of Kansas. I yield back the remainder of my time.