

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 31, 2014

The Honorable Michael Froman  
United States Trade Representative  
607 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

We appreciate your personal attention to addressing priorities and concerns we have raised during the various consultations we have had with you directly and your staff. A high-standard Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) could play a significant role in opening more markets to “made in America” products and services. As countries in the region look to set the rules of trade, it is essential that the United States has a seat at the table and takes a leadership role in setting those rules.

While there are several issues of importance being negotiated, we continue to be focused on seeking your commitment that the United States will not close TPP without fully including the May 10, 2007 agreement on labor standards. We strongly support requiring every country who is party to TPP to have fully enforceable commitments to adopt, maintain, and effectively enforce in their laws and practices the five basic international labor organization (ILO) standards: (1) freedom of association, (2) the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, (3) the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor, (4) the effective abolition of child labor, and (5) the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. We expect that all labor provisions in TPP be subject to the same dispute settlement mechanisms and penalties as the commercial obligations. If a country is failing to live up to its labor obligations, the United States must have the ability to hold it accountable for its actions. In addition, we support an obligation that TPP countries commit to take initiatives to discourage trade in goods produced by forced labor.

We also expect that there will be no exceptions for certain countries; all should be subject to the same high labor standards. For certain countries, such as Vietnam, we expect the U.S. to work with TPP countries on detailed plans to bring their domestic laws and practices into full compliance with the requirements of TPP. No member country should benefit from the agreement if it is not meeting its labor obligations. We support providing assistance for capacity building to strengthen workers’ rights and protections for individual TPP countries; however, a lack of capacity or resources cannot be an excuse for not fully adhering to the high labor standards set by the agreement.

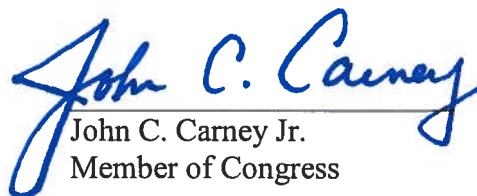
Ninety-five percent of the world’s consumers live beyond America’s borders, and we must be engaged with a trade strategy that will open markets and empower American businesses to sell their products and services overseas, creating good paying jobs here at home. As you continue

negotiations over TPP, it is critical that strong, enforceable labor standards be included as part of any agreement.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



John C. Carney Jr.  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Brad Schneider  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Patrick E. Murphy  
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress