



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

October 4, 2017

The Hon. David G. Reichert  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1127 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Reichert:

With the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) proceeding on an accelerated timeline, I urge you to hold public hearings of the Subcommittee on Trade of the Committee on Ways and Means on this important issue. This subcommittee, and Congress as a whole, has an important oversight role in ensuring a fair and equitable trade deal for our country. As such, I believe it is imperative for the subcommittee to receive testimony from the Trump Administration on its negotiating objectives and to solicit input from the American business, labor, and environmental communities regarding the current agreement and any possible future agreement.

During the original NAFTA negotiations, the Committee on Ways and Means held extensive, multi-day hearings on the implications of North American free trade at both the committee and subcommittee levels. The Committee understood, then as now, the dramatic impact that NAFTA could have on the American economy and the American worker and, therefore, demanded rigorous public accountability at every stage of the negotiating process. From 1991 to 1993, Ways and Means held at least four hearings<sup>1</sup>, receiving testimony from United States Trade Representatives, Secretaries of Labor, and Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency for the Bush and Clinton administrations, as well as from nearly 100 representatives of sectors, industries, and interests across the nation.

However, to date, the subcommittee has conducted only one hearing on NAFTA modernization, which took place more than two months ago on July 17. No Administration witnesses were called to testify. Since then, USTR has undertaken three rounds of negotiations in which

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<sup>1</sup> *Proposed negotiation of a free trade agreement with Mexico: Hearings before the Subcomm. on Trade of the Comm. on Ways and Means, House, 102<sup>nd</sup> Cong., first session (Feb. 20, 21, and 28, 1991); North American Free Trade Agreement: Hearings before the Comm. on Ways and Means and its Subcomm. on Trade, House, 102<sup>nd</sup> Cong., second session (Sep. 9, 15, 17, and 22, 1992); Supplemental agreements to the North American Free Trade Agreement: Hearing before the Subcomm. on Trade of the Comm. on Ways and Means, House, 103<sup>rd</sup> Cong., first session (Mar. 11, 1993); North American Free-Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Supplemental Agreements to the NAFTA: Hearings before the Comm. on Ways and Means and its Subcomm. on Trade, House, 103<sup>rd</sup> Cong., first session (Sep. 14, 15, 21, and 23, 1993).*

significant issues have been discussed – issues ranging from dispute settlement to procurement to intellectual property and more. It is critical that Members of Congress be consulted and have the opportunity to provide input as these negotiations move forward on an aggressive timeline. We owe it to the American people to exercise the same level of oversight now as we exercised 23 years ago. In addition, given the President's threat to terminate NAFTA in April of this year and recent references to withdrawing from NAFTA via Twitter, it should also be important for the subcommittee to examine the potential impact of NAFTA's termination on the U.S. economy, workers, businesses, and stakeholders.

I strongly urge you to schedule a hearing to provide the subcommittee with the opportunity to re-examine NAFTA and conduct the necessary oversight of the Administration's efforts to renegotiate the agreement. I look forward to your response on this important request.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Thank you Chairman for considering  
this request.*

*Bill P*