

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

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
The House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
The House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Appropriations Committee  
2006 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwomen Lowey and Roybal-Allard and Ranking Members Granger and Fleischmann:

As Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, we write to ask for your support in funding the Office of Trade (OT) in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. As you continue your work for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, we ask that you fund the OT at \$292.557 million—\$ 13.195 million above the FY 2020 enacted level, \$8.1 million of which would support the OT's Trade Agreement, Remedies and Enforcement Personnel requested increase of 50 positions, 25 full time employees (FTEs). We support the OT's request for additional funds to strengthen enforcement efforts around key trade issues such as antidumping and countervailing duty collections, penalties, suspension and debarment, and forced labor to hold our trading partners accountable.

U.S. enforcement efforts regarding forced labor require more resources. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO) there are over 20 million individuals trapped in forced labor and child labor. As supply chains continue to be intertwined, we are concerned that forced labor and child labor is being used across the world to produce many products imported into the United States. Yet the Forced Labor Division was only allocated approximately \$2 million in FY 2019 to address these issues. Of the additional funds provided to OT in FY 2021, we request that the Forced Labor Division be provided at least \$4 million to enforce and remediate issues related to imports made wholly or in part or by forced labor.

The OT plays a central role in defending America's economic security by enforcing current trade laws, implementing new measures to protect American industry, and creating jobs by leveling the playing field for American businesses. We urge you to fund the OT at \$292.557 million and ensure \$8.1 million is dedicated to the OT's Trade Agreement, Remedies and Enforcement Personnel to strengthen trade enforcement actions and processes that prevent forced labor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Pascrell Jr." in a cursive script.

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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

**Support for funding the Office of Trade in FY2021**

List of Signatories

March 20, 2020

John Lewis  
Earl Blumenauer  
Linda Sánchez  
Terri A. Sewell  
Suzan DelBene  
Judy Chu  
Gwen Moore  
Dan Kildee  
Don Beyer  
Tom Suozzi  
Jimmy Panetta  
Jimmy Gomez