

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

September 10, 2018

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

On July 30th, we sent you a letter reminding you that the May 2017 letter to Congress made no mention of your intent to split the current trilateral NAFTA agreement into two separate bilateral deals or engage in a single bilateral free trade agreement negotiation with Canada and Mexico. Furthermore, the negotiating objectives you published were specific to a trilateral deal and your office never released any negotiating objectives regarding a bilateral deal with either Mexico or Canada.

Therefore, we were surprised to see you formally notify Congress that you, “intend to enter into a trade agreement with Mexico – and with Canada if it is willing,” by the end of November 2018. While we appreciate that it takes time to iron out the final details and text, we believe that it is not in the spirit of TPA to send Congress an official notification letter until all three parties have formally agreed to move forward together with an updated trilateral agreement.

However, as you have sent the notification letter to Congress, we have several questions:


1. Following the notification letter to Congress of the intent to sign an agreement, the Advisory Committees must submit the reports to Congress within 30 days. The advisory committee system consists of 28 advisory committees, representing both public and private sector interests. Their reports are crucial to understanding how key stakeholders view a particular trade agreement.

How can the advisory committees put together thoughtful, informed reports if they don't even know if Canada will be part of the agreement? Is the current plan for them to put together a report on the US-Mexico deal and then revise it if Canada ultimately joins? If they do have to revise the report to account for Canada, will they be able to meet the deadline of 30 days from August 31?

2. 60 days before signature, the full text of the agreement must be made public. If you cannot reach agreement with Canada, is it your intention to publish the full text of the US-Mexico agreement 60 days before signature? If you are able to reach agreement with Canada, do you commit to releasing the full text of the agreement, including any side letters, 60 days before signature?


We look forward to your response, and look forward to working with you to modernize NAFTA.

Sincerely,

  
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Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

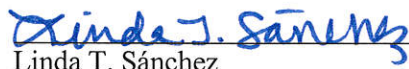
  
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Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

  
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Terri A. Sewell  
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Member of Congress

  
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Member of Congress