

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 2018

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
Ambassador
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

We are concerned with the current negotiations on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), specifically with respect to Mexico's labor policies. The suppression of wages and lack of labor rights continue to result in the outsourcing of U.S. manufacturing jobs and low wage growth.

Mexico's policy of suppressed low wages, combined with increased protection of investment, became a magnet for its industrial growth. A key factor has been the maintenance of very low labor costs, ingrained in a structure that eliminates any voices for workers in the workplace. The current objectives in the NAFTA renegotiation, and recent Administration statements do not do nearly enough to address this basic structural problem.


Even after Mexico's constitutional reforms this past year, we have yet to see meaningful progress on the ground or have confidence in their impact. The authoritarian style labor structure, stacked labor boards and government aligned unions combine to limit the ability of workers to seek wage increases. Low wages, a lack of independent unions and an inability for workers to collectively bargain in Mexico have hurt American workers and led to the outsourcing of jobs to Mexico. Increasing labor rights in Mexico will help workers there climb out of poverty, and also protect American jobs and wages from a race to the bottom.

The text USTR has currently proposed must therefore only be a starting point in our negotiations with Mexico. Any new NAFTA must have strong, clear and binding provisions that address Mexico's labor conditions. Given the ingrained resistance to labor rights in Mexico, we must demand real and identifiable progress on labor reforms take place before Congress votes on a renegotiated NAFTA.


While many of us have ongoing concerns over additional provisions of NAFTA affecting labor, we felt it was important to highlight with a unified voice the primary source of significant outsourcing: Mexico's low wages and lack of labor rights. Trade agreements must ensure that as


trade and competition grows, they work to harmonize wages and rights upwards for American workers and workers in other nations. Functioning core labor standards promote expanding markets benefiting workers in both countries. We urge you to keep your promises to America's workers and remedy the faults of the original NAFTA by holding Mexico accountable for its labor practices and negotiate strong protections in any agreement.

Sincerely,


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

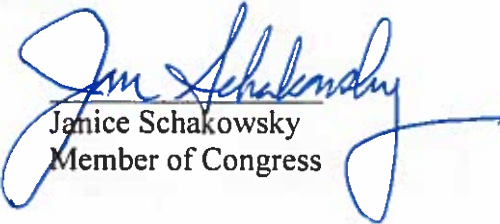

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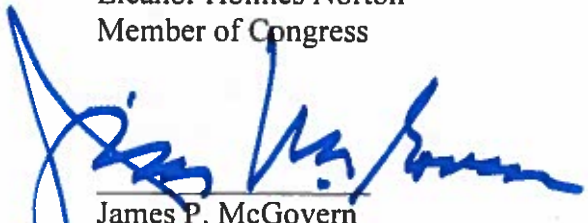

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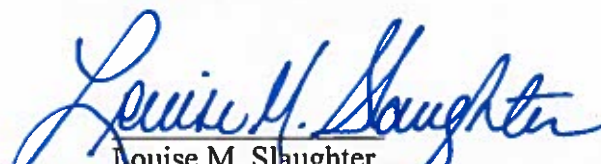

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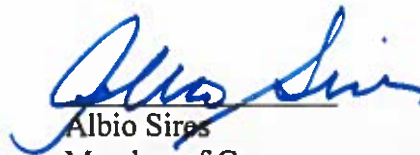
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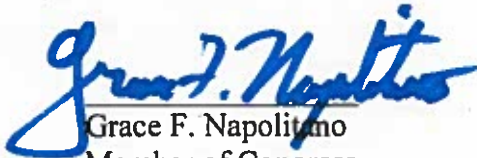
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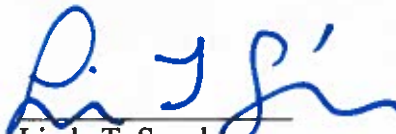
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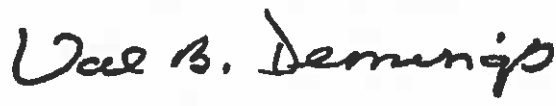
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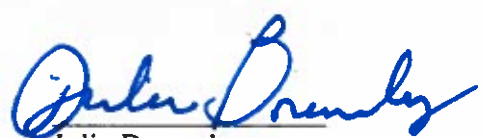
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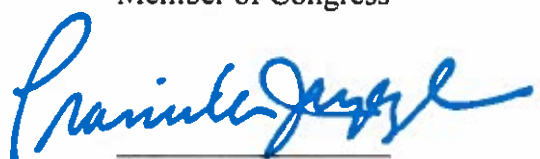
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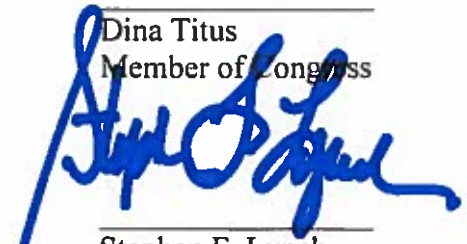
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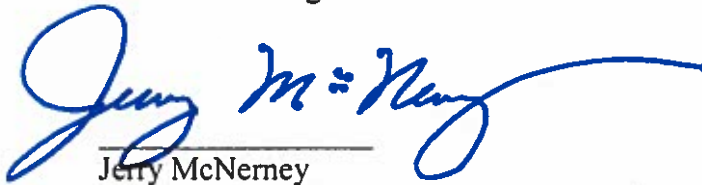

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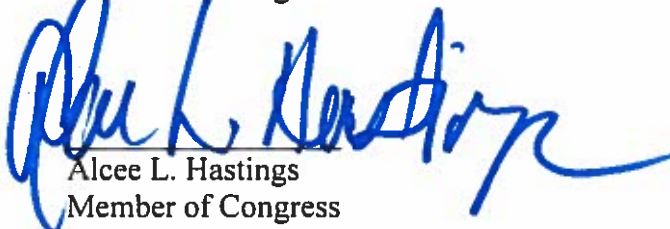

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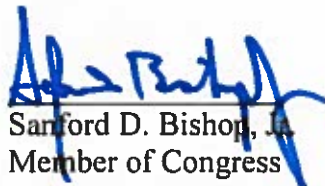
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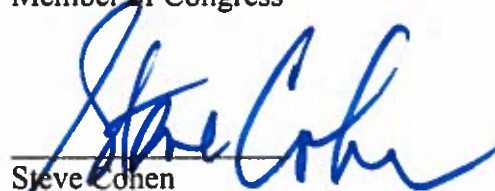
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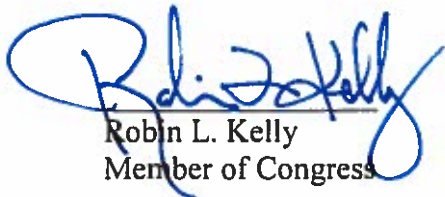
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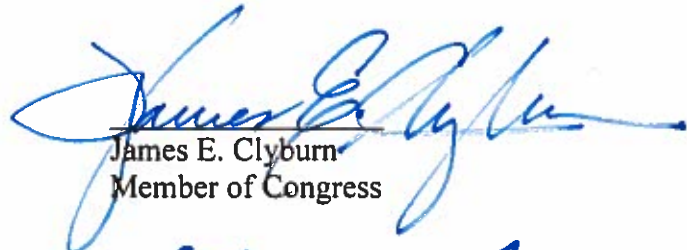
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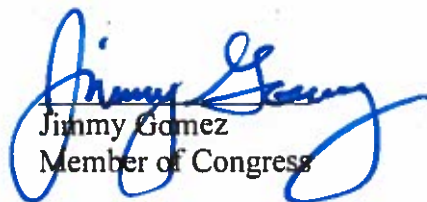
André Carson
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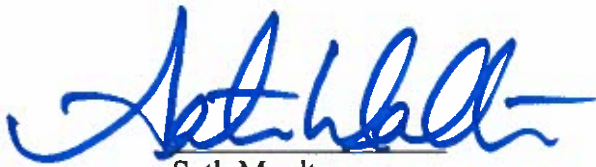
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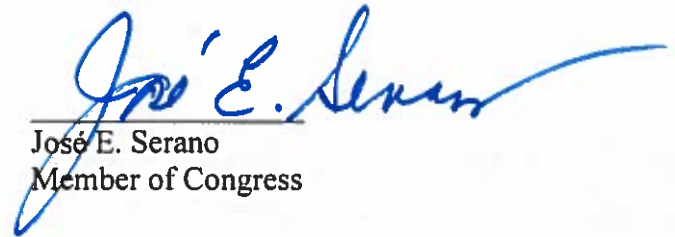
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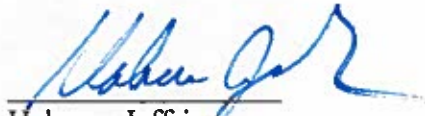
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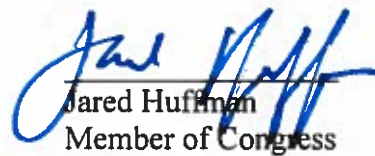
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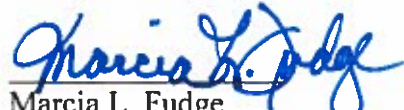
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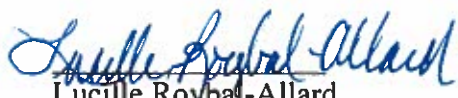

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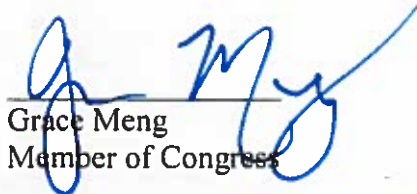

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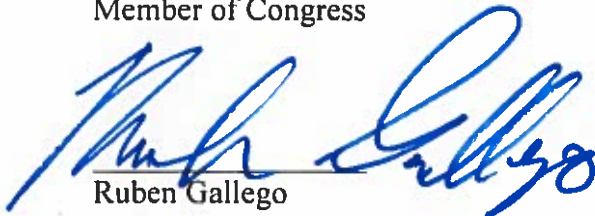

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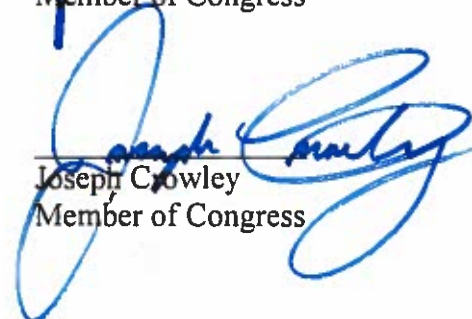

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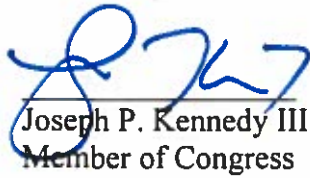

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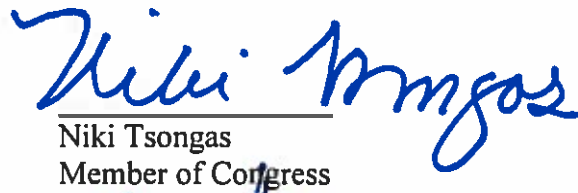

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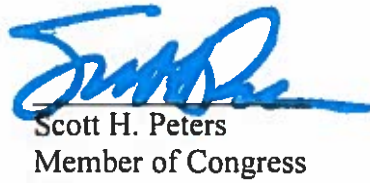

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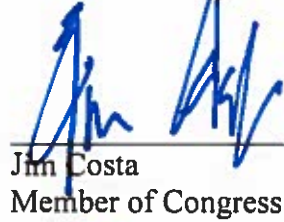


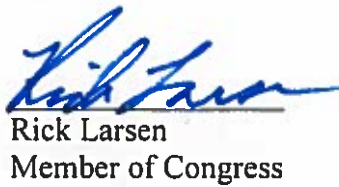
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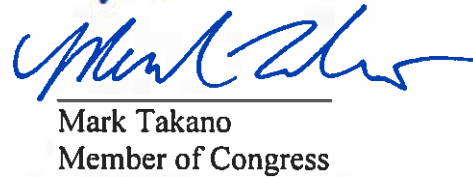

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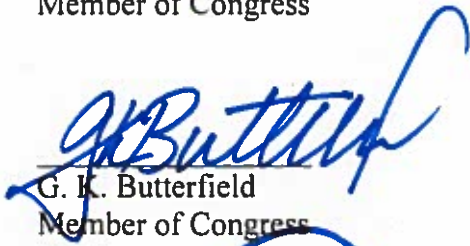
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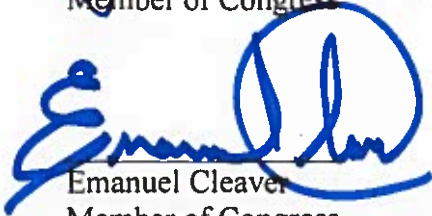
Anthony Brown
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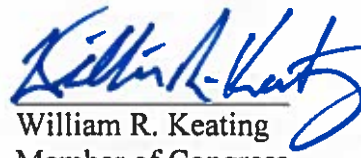
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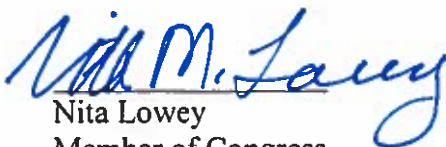
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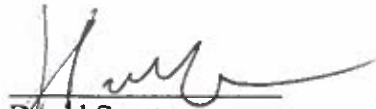
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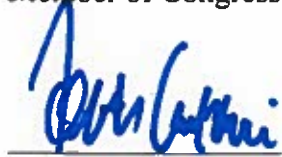
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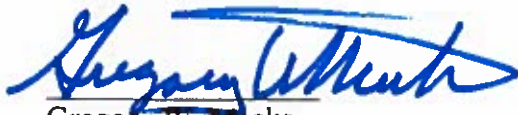

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