

October 9, 2019

Hon. Juan Vargas
Congressional Representative
51st District
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Vargas,

We are writing as a coalition of businesses and organizations from your district to urge your support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

We realize some members of Congress, including yourself, have concerns about USMCA. However, many of those concerns can be addressed in the implementing legislation. Furthermore, this agreement represents a real opportunity to make significant updates to the rules governing North American free trade and protect our region's economic growth and stability. We can continue our trade relations with Mexico and Canada under NAFTA, but our belief is that the U.S. economy should not be tied to a trade agreement that innovation and technology have passed by.

All other alternatives are worse. If Congress fails to act, President Trump is likely to withdraw the United States from NAFTA with the required six-months' notice, and once the official notification period ends, trade relations with our country's two largest trading partners would revert to pre-1994 terms, with greater tariffs and an increased probability of a trade war in which both American consumers and businesses would suffer. And the idea of reopening negotiations with Canada and Mexico would certainly lead to economic disaster as we would prolong the current state of uncertainty discouraging trade and investment at a time when a recession is expected.

Representing a network of employers in your district, we cannot emphasize enough the economic risk we face without securing trade policy for North America. **In an increasingly competitive global economy, the continuation of the world's largest free trade agreement is essential for the livelihood of operations in Imperial Valley and San Diego. We urge you to represent the interests of the people you represent.**

Sincerely,

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