

May 9, 2018

The Honorable Michael McCaul
U.S. House of Representatives
2001 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Albio Sires
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Theodore Yoho
U.S. House of Representatives
511 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives McCaul, Sires, and Yoho:

As representatives of leading U.S. business associations representing a broad swath of the U.S. economy, we are writing to express appreciation and support for your sponsorship of the Multilateral Aid Review Act of 2017 (MARA) (H.R. 4502). The undersigned associations believe that this important legislation would enhance Congress's oversight role over U.S. support to multilateral organizations, strengthening U.S. international engagement and leading to real improvements in how these organizations operate, and encourage you to advance this bill and these issues in Congress.

Our organizations and member companies support robust U.S. leadership and engagement in global institutions. The United States has played a leading role in the creation of global institutions to promote peace, stability, economic growth and other goals that benefit the interests of U.S. manufacturers domestically and abroad. Even as we support strong engagement, our members are concerned about a growing number of initiatives at global institutions that do not align with those organizations' core missions, lack appropriate transparency, accountability or stakeholder consultation, and, in some cases, directly harm U.S. economic interests.

These concerns point to the need for the United States to engage, not withdraw, from international institutions, and to continue to be a leading voice promoting ambitious, high-quality initiatives that advance American foreign policy and economic goals. MARA's rigorous, expert-led, fact-based analysis of U.S. funding of multilateral entities strongly supports that role. The transparent process envisioned by the legislation allows all parties with experience and an interest in international organizations to provide input and feedback on how engagement promotes American interests. The review permits a fair, robust analysis of each organization's strengths and weaknesses, management and efficacy, and alignment with U.S. foreign and economic policy. Such a process would strengthen transparency and accountability at these organizations and optimize U.S. taxpayer investments in them.

Importantly, this legislation would strengthen, not weaken, the oversight role of Congress and its foreign affairs and appropriations committees by providing additional resources to assess U.S. engagement with these organizations. The review process would provide non-binding recommendations that include detailed reports to appropriate congressional committees for their consideration. The MARA-envisioned process thus could help ensure that Congress spends its valuable time making strategic decisions about the effectiveness of international organization activities and appropriate funding levels.

Moreover, experience from countries such as the United Kingdom shows that strategic reviews (such as that envisioned by MARA) can be effective in mapping international organization investment to national priorities. These efforts also support stronger dialogue with other member states and international organization staff about the need for effective, constructive reform at these organizations.

For these reasons, we thank you again for your sponsorship of MARA and urge you to advance this bill and these issues in Congress. We would be happy to meet with you at any point to discuss our views and encourage you to contact National Association of Manufacturers Director of International Business Policy Ryan Ong (rong@nam.org).

Sincerely,

Advanced Medical Technology Association
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Chemistry Council
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Grocery Manufacturers Association
INDA, The Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
International Dairy Foods Association
IPC — Association Connecting Electronics Industries
ISSA — The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association
National Association of Manufacturers
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
Plastics Industry Association
Reusable Industrial Packaging Association
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates
The Vinyl Institute