

November 18, 2016

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Promoting Travel, Commerce and National Security Act of 2016

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cochran and Ranking Members Lowey and Mikulski:

As representatives of millions of businesses of all sizes throughout the United States, we urge you to include in the final FY2017 appropriations package the provisions of the Promoting Travel, Commerce and National Security Act of 2016 that was introduced on a bipartisan basis in both the House and Senate (H.R. 4657 and S. 2612) and included in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2017, as approved by the Senate Committee on Appropriations (S. 3001). This legislation would implement the *U.S.-Canada Agreement on Land, Rail, Marine, and Air Transport Preclearance* and is important to improve cross-border travel and commerce between our two nations across all modes of transportation.

The United States and Canada enjoy one of the largest bilateral economic relationships in the world, with \$1.4 trillion in bilateral trade and investment and two-way trade in goods and services valued at \$759 billion in 2014. Each day more than \$1.8 billion in goods and services and nearly 390,000 people cross the U.S.-Canadian border. Given the magnitude of the relationship, strong collaboration between the United States and Canada is essential to expedite lawful trade and travel to promote broader economic and security goals.

Preclearance has been a highly important component in the ongoing cooperation between the two countries by enabling U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials to conduct security, facilitation, and inspection activities in Canada before travelers embark to the United States. At present, such preclearance activities have been restricted to a limited number of airports in Canada and are not available for other forms of travel, such as rail, or to the movement of goods.

To expand and improve the preclearance relations, the United States and Canada negotiated and signed a new preclearance agreement in March 2015 to expand preclearance to all modes of transportation, including rail. In addition, the new agreement would expand the authority of CBP preclearance officers to use the same law enforcement devices and tools permitted in the United States and ensure that the United States maintains legal jurisdiction of its CBP officers in performance of their official duties. To authorize CBP activity and implement the U.S.-Canadian preclearance agreement fully, the Promoting Travel, Commerce and National Security Act was introduced in both the House and Senate on a bipartisan basis.

Action on this legislation this year is critical to ensure that the United States can expand and improve its collaboration with Canada to expedite and process cross-border travel and trade. Expanding and improving preclearance activities will have important benefits for U.S. business and other travelers and set a precedent for expanding such activities to cross-border trade, all of which will promote important commercial and broader economic and security benefits for the United States. We, therefore, urge that these provisions be included in the final FY2017 appropriations packages.

Aerospace Industries Association  
AmCham Canada  
American Trucking Associations  
Border Commerce and Security Council  
Border Policy Research Institute  
Buffalo Niagara Partnership  
Canada-U.S. Business Association  
Canadian American Business Council  
Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance  
Council of the Great Lakes Region  
Emergency Committee for American Trade  
Express Association of America  
Global Business Travel Association  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Great Lakes Manufacturing Council  
NAFTANext  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Foreign Trade Council  
National Retail Federation  
National Tank Truck Carriers  
Ohio-Canada Business Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Travel Association  
United States Council for International Business  
United States Fashion Industry Association

CC: Chairman Bob Goodlatte, House Committee on the Judiciary  
Ranking Member John Conyers, House Committee on the Judiciary  
Chairman Chuck Grassley, Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Ranking Member Patrick Leahy, Senate Committee on the Judiciary