

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2017

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

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

As you prepare to notify Congress, in accordance with section 105(a)(1)(A) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act (TPA), of your intention to enter into negotiations with Canada and Mexico regarding modernization the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), we ask that you recognize the importance of promoting North American energy independence. The North American energy markets are highly integrated and interdependent, with energy infrastructure, including pipelines and electric transmission, crossing the United States, Mexican and Canadian borders several times. Maintaining the free flow of energy among these countries is vital to American energy security and economic viability.

The North American energy sector has undergone dramatic changes since NAFTA entered into force twenty-three years ago. For instance, the United States has experienced undergone dramatic growth in resource production, making it the world's leading producer of oil and natural gas, while Mexico has opened its energy sector to foreign investment for the first time in over seventy-five years. In Canada, investment and innovation in oil sands, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and energy infrastructure projects have led the country to become a top five producer of energy. In short, NAFTA has set the stage for North America to be truly energy independent.

The current energy infrastructure system also provides sound economic support for American people and businesses by expanding the size of our energy markets and providing export markets for the United States. The growth of energy production in North America has resulted in significantly lower costs for natural gas as well as transportation fuels. In addition, ensuring that the United States has unimpeded access to crucial energy supplies is vital for our national security. Given the strategic and economic relationship with Canada and Mexico, the United States is better off securing its energy supplies on the continent than from less reliable sources.

As your office begins the process of entering into negotiations with Canada and Mexico to modernize NAFTA in accordance with the TPA, we ask that you consider the importance of maintaining, and where feasible upgrading, policies regarding the free flow of raw and refined products from oil and natural gas, the absence of tariffs on energy products, protections for U.S. intellectual property, as well as access to Canadian and Mexican markets. These policies will help ensure the continued growth and stability of the North American energy market, supporting U.S. economic and security efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our offices if we may be of assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress