COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WASHINGTON, DC 20515

April 22, 2021

Ambassador Katherine Tai United States Trade Representative The Office of the United States Trade Representative 600 17th Street N.W. Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai:

Congratulations on your unanimous confirmation. We look forward to partnering with you to advance an ambitious U.S. trade policy that improves the lives of all Americans by opening new markets for made-in-America products and services while raising standards and holding our trading partners accountable through tough and consistent enforcement.

Republicans strongly believe that American technological ingenuity and innovation, deployed worldwide through our trade policy, will reduce carbon emissions and create jobs.

On this Earth Day, we write in particular to urge the United States resume negotiations to complete an ambitious Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) that would eliminate tariffs on U.S. clean energy exports, creating U.S. jobs and reducing global emissions. This is a timely opportunity to advance a broad range of important U.S. goals.

The United States is a global innovation leader, including for cutting-edge technologies that improve energy efficiency and help address environmental concerns, all while supporting an increasing number of good U.S. jobs. Accordingly, the United States dynamically led the negotiations from 2014-2016, and although the negotiations were not completed, significant progress was made.

We strongly believe that you would strengthen U.S. green manufacturing, create U.S. jobs, reduce emissions, and improve the environment by resuscitating the talks and reaching a conclusion that supports U.S. manufacturing workers and makes our clean technology products more readily available across the world. We point in particular to two compelling factors.

First, U.S. tariffs are already very low on the clean energy products under consideration at that time. In contrast, some other countries that participated in the EGA negotiations have much higher tariffs on made-in-America clean technology products, as high as 50 percent. These tariffs disadvantage U.S. manufacturers and workers. Therefore, the EGA presents an excellent opportunity to open foreign markets to green goods manufactured by U.S. workers without requiring the United States to make large concessions in return.

Second, high foreign tariffs on American clean technology products make these products more expensive and discourage their use, undermining global efforts to reduce carbon emissions and to improve air and water quality. But eliminating those tariffs incentivizes companies abroad and other countries to purchase clean American technology, improving the environment.

The United States has a tremendous opportunity to lead the resumption and prompt completion of EGA negotiations, creating more U.S. jobs and reducing emissions worldwide. We urge you to take prompt action to lead the charge to do so, and we look forward to working with you toward the successful conclusion of an ambitious agreement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brady Republican Leader Committee on Ways and Means

Devin Nunes Committee on Ways and Means

Tom Reed

Committee on Ways and Means

Yason Smith Committee on Ways and Means

David Schweikert Committee on Ways and Means

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