

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 24, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President-elect
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-elect Biden,

Congratulations on your victory in the Presidential election. We are excited about your vision for our country's future, and we stand ready to work with you to advance your Build Back Better agenda. After four years of chaos, we are grateful with your commitment to filling Cabinet and Cabinet-level positions with qualified and experienced individuals who represent the diversity of our great country. As members who represent a diverse cross-section of women in Congress, we strongly recommend Katherine Tai for the position of United States Trade Representative.

Our next trade ambassador will inherit many challenges, including a struggling domestic economy, frayed relationships with international trading partners, continued tensions with China, and the implementation of the United-States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Ms. Tai's experience and diplomatic abilities make her uniquely qualified to tackle these priorities deftly and competently. In her position as the Ways and Means Chief Trade Counsel and Trade Subcommittee Staff Director, she coordinated and managed Speaker Pelosi's USMCA Working Group members in their successful negotiations with the Trump Administration to update the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Her technical expertise and diplomacy navigating the divergent priorities of the Democratic Caucus, key stakeholders, and Administration were instrumental in producing an agreement that received the support of an overwhelming number of members, including a majority of the Democratic Caucus. The agreement includes landmark protections and obligations for workers' rights and the environment, and access to more affordable medicine. The strength of any trade agreement; however, is dependent on its implementation and enforcement. Ms. Tai's central role in the renegotiation of the agreement makes her uniquely qualified to lead implementation and enforcement efforts that many of us committed to uphold when we voted for the agreement last year. The agreement includes strong monitoring and enforcement provisions, and Ms. Tai knows every tool available to hold Mexico and Canada accountable.

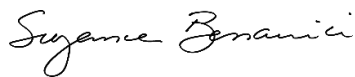
Prior to her time in Congress, Ms. Tai was the Chief Counsel for China Trade Enforcement at USTR, leading legal strategy of U.S.-China trade disputes and successfully prosecuting China's unfair trade practices. Your USTR will be facing an increasingly hostile and complex relationship with China as our small businesses and farmers continue to suffer from the Trump Administration's failed trade strategy. Ms. Tai's professional experience, fluency in Mandarin, and savvy diplomatic acumen mean that she's ready on day one to lead our country with strength and conviction when fighting for our most important constituencies.

In addition to the domestic and global economic challenges, the next USTR will be tasked with repairing the trade relationship between Congress and the Executive branch. Our country's trade policy must be grounded in a strong relationship between these two branches of government, and that relationship was frequently disrespected and undermined by the current Administration. Ms. Tai's time on the Hill spanning the late years of the Obama administration and all four years of the Trump administration translate into the most current knowledge any Democrat will have about how trade policies affect all of our districts in unique and personal ways, and how a strengthened relationship between Congress and the USTR could serve our nation so much better.

Importantly, as women members of Congress we know firsthand the importance of the perspective and skills that women bring to the highest levels of government. Women do not have the luxury of coming to the table unprepared, or of conducting themselves undiplomatically, and as a result, are uniquely able to negotiate and advance priorities with both friendly and hostile negotiating partners. Ms. Tai has repeatedly proven herself to embody these skills, and it would be to your Administration's great benefit for her to use those abilities as the USTR. The Biden Transition has publicly committed to building a government that "looks like America." The nomination of Katherine Tai, who would be the first woman of color to hold this position, helps to accomplish this important goal.

Building an effective, qualified Cabinet is foundational to the future of our country. We are confident that Ms. Tai would serve our nation proudly as the next United States Trade Representative. We look forward to working with you to advance our shared vision for our country.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



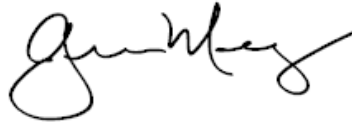
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

cc: Ron Klain
 Ted Kaufman
 Jennifer O'Malley Dillon
 Steve Ricchetti
 Jeffrey Zients
 Cedric Richmond
 Michelle Lujan Grisham
 Anita Dunn