

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 31, 2014

Ambassador Michael Froman  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

We are writing to stress the importance of digital trade issues within the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. We urge you to include strong, binding obligations in this agreement to ensure that markets are open to digital products and services and cross-border data flows.

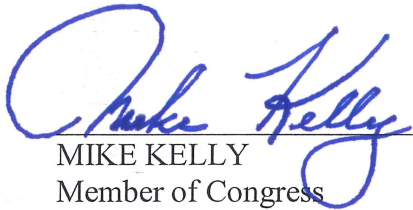
In order to achieve modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century trade agreements, digital trade issues must be sufficiently addressed. We appreciate your commitment to including high standards to preserve cross-border data flows in all trade agreements. Any agreement presented to Congress will need to include provisions that specifically keep borders open to the free flow of data, prohibit countries from requiring the use of local data servers or other computing infrastructure as a condition for providing digital services, and ensure non-discriminatory treatment of digital products and services. We encourage you to resist efforts by other countries to include overly broad exceptions that would unnecessarily undermine these provisions and provide lower levels of protection for digital products and services than other areas of trade. We also urge you to resist any delay in the implementation of dispute resolution mechanisms.

With close to 3 billion people now using the Internet, digital trade is an increasingly important driver of the U.S. and global economies. This trend is being propelled by nearly \$4 trillion in global spending on information technologies and services, from mobile and cloud computing to data analytics. Against this backdrop, the US International Trade Commission has reported that US exports of digitally enabled services totaled more than \$356 billion in 2011 — a 26 percent increase from 2007 — generating a trade surplus in the sector each year. This underscores why it is so important for industries across the economy — especially those with global operations — to be able to transfer data across borders.

All TPP countries will benefit from the free flow of data, a view shared by industries throughout the region. Businesses of all types and sizes are capitalizing on digital technologies to boost their productivity, streamline operations, and facilitate creativity and problem solving. For example, with infinitely scalable processing power and unimaginably vast data storage at their disposal, banks can analyze patterns to detect fraud; doctors can more efficiently assess the most effective treatments for diseases; and farmers can track soil, weather and plant data to maximize yields. Advances in information technology collapse distance as never before, allowing small and large businesses to operate seamlessly in international markets — interacting with suppliers and serving customers anywhere in the world. We need trade policies to encourage this kind of innovation and growth, not inhibit it.


Thank you for your commitment to concluding an ambitious TPP that will enable the growth of the digital economy for the U.S. and its trading partners. As always, we look forward to working with you on these and other important issues.

Sincerely,



---

MIKE KELLY  
Member of Congress



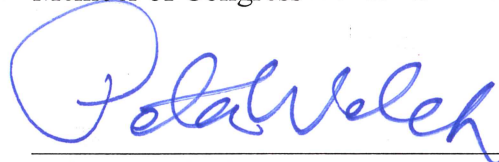
---

RON KIND  
Member of Congress



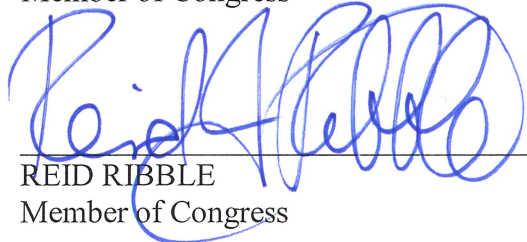
---

CEDRIC RICHMOND  
Member of Congress



---

PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



---

REID RIBBLE  
Member of Congress



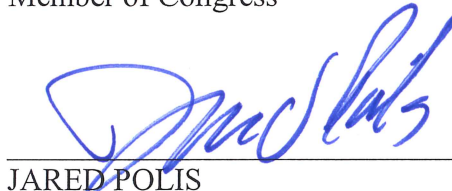
---

CHARLES BOUSTANY  
Member of Congress



---

LYNN JENKINS  
Member of Congress



---

JARED POLIS  
Member of Congress



---

JIM MORAN  
Member of Congress



---

DAVE REICHERT  
Member of Congress



---

RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress

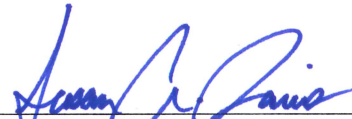


---

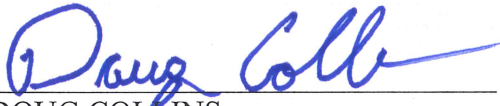
JIM MCDERMOTT  
Member of Congress



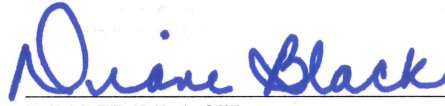
ERIK PAULSEN  
Member of Congress



SUSAN DAVIS  
Member of Congress



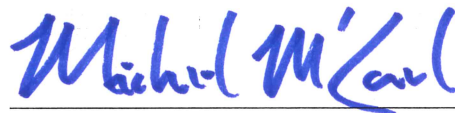
DOUG COLLINS  
Member of Congress



DIANE BLACK  
Member of Congress



MIKE HONDA  
Member of Congress



MICHAEL MCCAUL  
Member of Congress



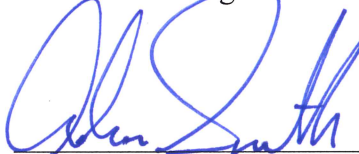
EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress



ADRIAN SMITH  
Member of Congress



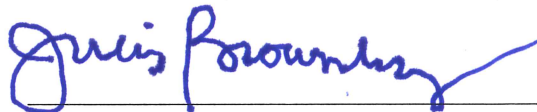
KENNY MARCHANT  
Member of Congress



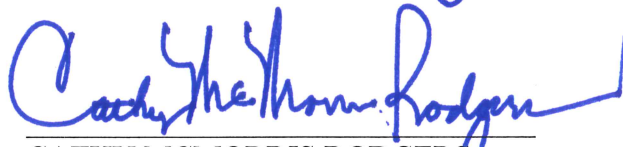
ADAM SMITH  
Member of Congress



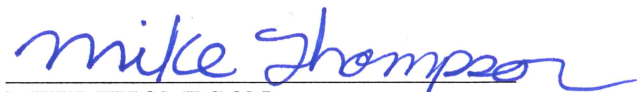
CHARLIE RANGEL  
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress



CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS  
Member of Congress

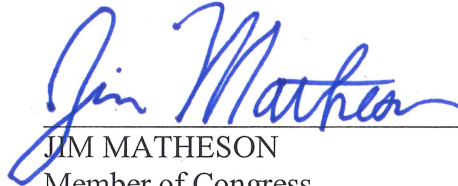


MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress






TOM REED  
Member of Congress



JIM MATHESON  
Member of Congress



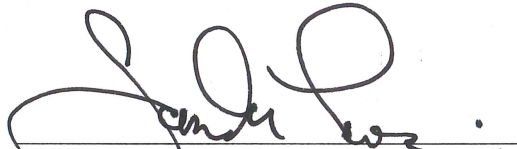
TIM GRIFFIN  
Member of Congress



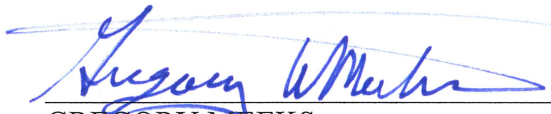
SUZAN DELBENE  
Member of Congress



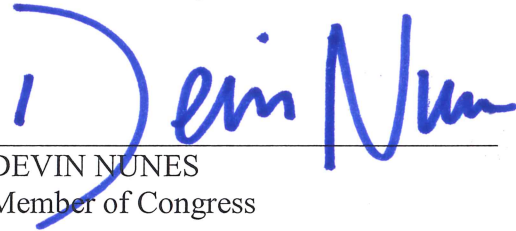
JIM RENACCI  
Member of Congress



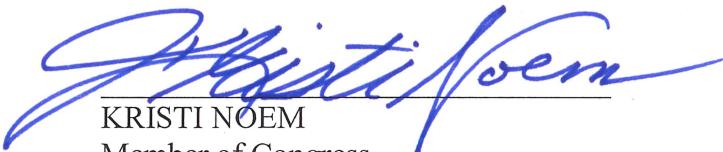
SANDY LEVIN  
Member of Congress



GREGORY MEEKS  
Member of Congress



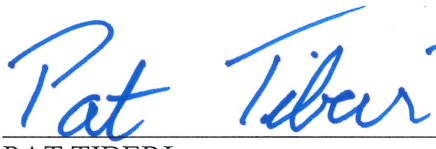
DEVIN NUNES  
Member of Congress




KRISTI NOEM  
Member of Congress



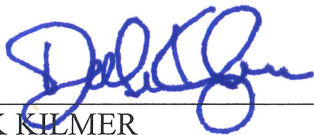
PETER ROSKAM  
Member of Congress



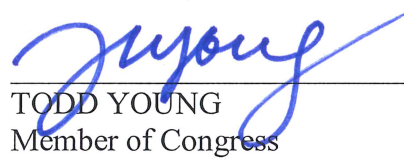
PAT TIBERI  
Member of Congress



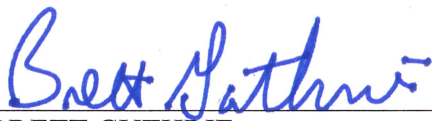
SUZANNE BONAMICI  
Member of Congress



DEREK KILMER  
Member of Congress



TODD YOUNG  
Member of Congress



BRETT GUTHRIE  
Member of Congress



BLAKE FARENTHOLD  
Member of Congress



ANNA ESHOO  
Member of Congress



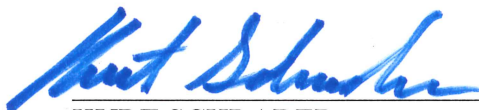
STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress



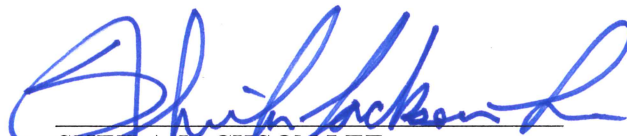
BILL OWENS  
Member of Congress



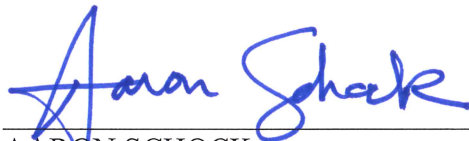
VERN BUCHANAN  
Member of Congress



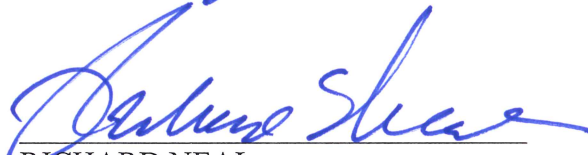
KURT SCHRADER  
Member of Congress



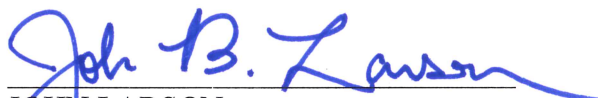
SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress



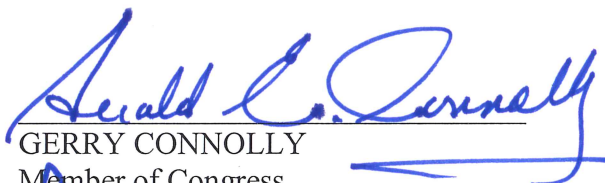
AARON SCHOCK  
Member of Congress



RICHARD NEAL  
Member of Congress



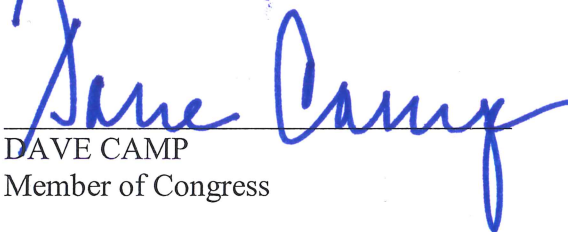
JOHN LARSON  
Member of Congress



GERRY CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress



JOHN DELANEY  
Member of Congress



DAVE CAMP  
Member of Congress

*Pete Sessions*

---

PETE SESSIONS  
Member of Congress