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United States Senate

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July 29, 2020

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

I write to respectfully urge you to immediately initiate meaningful negotiations between the United States and Taiwan on a comprehensive Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

The United States bilateral economic relationship with Taiwan continues to grow and enjoys strong bipartisan support in Congress. In 2018, Taiwan was the U.S.'s 12th-largest trading partner for goods and services, importing and exporting a total worth \$95.4 billion. Taiwan was the 15th-largest foreign investor in the U.S. last year, and U.S. and Taiwanese enterprises together support almost 100,000 jobs on both sides of the Pacific.

On October 29, 2019, the United States Senate unanimously passed S.1678, the Taipei International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act, which calls on the Administration to "engage in bilateral trade negotiations with Taiwan, with the goal of entering into a free trade agreement that is of mutual economic benefit and that protects United States workers and benefits United States exporters."

On November 19, 2019, in a speech before the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei, President Tsai Ing-wen formally endorsed the U.S.-Taiwan BTA, stating: "A high-quality BTA between our countries would not only help strengthen our engagement, it would also set a strong precedent for a rules-based trade order in the Indo-Pacific region."

Unfortunately, despite the most favorable environment for U.S.-Taiwan bilateral ties in recent memory, there has been no substantive progress on bilateral trade negotiations.

I look forward to your reply and to working with you to make the U.S.-Taiwan BTA a reality in the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator