December 19, 2019

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), landmark legislation that set the framework for relations between the United States and Taiwan – two countries with a shared commitment to democracy, respect for the rule of law, and free market principles. The TRA has facilitated decades of economic, security, and trade relations that have benefited the global community and increased the prosperity of the United States and Taiwan. With this in mind, we strongly believe you should work toward beginning negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan.

Taiwan is a longstanding ally and a like-minded partner in the Indo-Pacific region that upholds and shares our values. Taiwan is our 11th largest trading partner worldwide, the 8th largest export market for U.S. agricultural products, a major purchaser of U.S. LNG exports, and the supplier of a significant amount of the semiconductors used by our manufacturers in their finished goods. Taiwan already affords its workers a high standard of labor protection, consistent with International Labor Organization conventions, and is a leader in environmental protection in the region.

Taiwan has already expressed strong interest in negotiating a fair, reciprocal, and high-standard bilateral trade agreement with the United States. We believe an agreement with Taiwan would expand markets for American goods, including agricultural products, by addressing existing market access issues, and could serve as a high bar for future agreements with other governments in the region. Such an agreement would encourage more investment in American industries as Taiwan’s exports would provide inputs U.S. manufacturers need. It would also help establish comprehensive and high-standard rules for digital trade, ensuring both countries operate under the same standards and leading to the creation of high-paying jobs in the sector. As the trade and investment relationship with Taiwan already supports an estimated 373,000 U.S. jobs, working toward the negotiation of a high-standard and comprehensive U.S.-Taiwan bilateral trade agreement would further enhance our shared goal of enhancing the global competitiveness of U.S. industries while spurring American job creation.

Taiwan has proven itself as a loyal and beneficial partner of the United States for many years. For the last four decades, the cornerstones of this relationship have been set forth in the TRA and the Six Assurances. We strongly think that your continued work toward trade
agreement negotiations would demonstrate our continued commitment to Taiwan, and the region as a whole, and will be consistent with the letter and spirit of the relations that have served the United States and Taiwan so well for the last forty years. We hope that you will consider these factors and continue to work toward this goal. As you do so, we anticipate frequent and robust consultations with Congress, including all committees of jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress

Jimmie Panetta  
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

David Trone
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

James Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress

Ron Wright
Member of Congress

Steve Watkins
Member of Congress

Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress

Brian Mast
Member of Congress

John Curtis
Member of Congress

Ken Buck
Member of Congress

Michael Guest
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Ben McAdams
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

Fred Keller
Member of Congress

Jim Banks
Member of Congress

John Rutherford
Member of Congress

Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress

Glenn Groshman
Member of Congress

Bryan Steil
Member of Congress
Aumua Amata
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Michael Cloud
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Greg Gianforte
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David P. Joyce
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Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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Anthony Gonzalez
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Ben Cline
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Mark E. Green, M.D.
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko
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Don Bacon
Member of Congress

Kevin Hern
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Ted Budd
Member of Congress

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

David P. Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress

Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress