November 14, 2017

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

RE: Support for NAFTA’s Trucking Provisions

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, wholesalers, retailers, importers, exporters, distributors, and transportation and logistics providers that utilize truck transportation to haul our products across the U.S. and Mexican border, we strongly urge you not to eliminate NAFTA’s trucking provisions in an updated agreement. We depend on the trucking industry, both American and Mexican, to safely and efficiently haul our products in both countries. Eliminating NAFTA trucking, including any investment protections, would have a long-term negative impact on our businesses.

We depend on efficient border crossings to remain competitive. Increasing trade in both directions is putting more and more pressure on our southern border land ports. Permitting Mexican carriers to haul freight beyond the border zones will help alleviate some of the congestion at the border, creating more efficiency through the system. By having these trucks drive further into border states, it will alleviate truck traffic out of the commercial border zones.

Mexican carriers and drivers are not permitted to haul domestic U.S. freight, so they are not competing with U.S. carriers and drivers. In fact, they often work in tandem with their U.S. motor carrier partners. Currently, it is a small, but important way of making sure our industries and North America remain competitive in the world market.

The Mexican trucking program is not an open-door policy that permits any and all Mexican trucking companies to haul freight beyond the border zones. Mexican carriers undergo a case-by-case review process before the U.S Department of Transportation grants them authority to operate. These carriers must adhere to all U.S. laws and regulations. And, most importantly, Mexican carriers operating beyond the commercial border zones have an excellent safety record.

We urge you to keep NAFTA’s trucking provisions in a NAFTA 2.0.

Sincerely,

Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Air & Expedited Motor Carriers Association (AEMCA)
Airforwarders Association
Almond Alliance of California
Amcot

American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Home Furnishings Alliance (AHFA)
American Import Shippers Association
American Potato Trade Alliance (APTA)
American Pyrotechnics Association
Association of Food Industries
Auto Care Association
Auto Haulers Association of America (AHAA)
California Business Properties Association
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Retailers Association
California Trucking Association
CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
Consumer Technology Association
Corn Refiners Association
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Express Association of America (EAA)
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
Frozen Potato Products Institute
Gemini Shippers Association
Glass Packaging Institute (GPI)
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Green Coffee Association
Halloween Industries Association
Harbor Trucking Association
Hardwood Federation
Home Furnishings Association
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference (IMCC)
International Wood Products Association
Juice Products Association
Juvenile Product Manufacturers Association
Meat Import Council of America
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Bean Shippers
Missouri Retailers Association
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
National Association of Beverage Importers
National Association of Egg Farmers
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
National Confectioners Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Foreign Trade Council
National Grain and Feed Association
National Industrial Transportation League
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Onion Association
National Potato Council
National Pork Producers Council
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council (NASSTRAC)
National Turkey Federation
New York/New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders & Brokers
North American Export Grain Association
North American Meat Institute
North American Shippers Association, Inc.
North American Strategy for Competitiveness
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Pet Food Institute
Produce Marketing Association
Retail Industry Leaders Association
SNAC International
Snowsports Industries America
The Expedite Alliance of North America (TEANA)
The Fertilizer Institute
The Toy Association
Texas International Produce Association
Texas Retailers Association
Transportation Intermediaries Association
Transportation Loss Prevention & Security Council
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Fashion Industry Association
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
United Fresh Produce Association
United States Council for International Business
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
Vinyl Institute
Washington Farm Bureau
Washington Retail Association
Washington State Potato Commission
Western Growers
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America